



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



## Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 9:30 AM CST

Port of Morgan City-7327 Highway 182

Morgan City, Louisiana 70380

*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.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1j4uIM-AA4I>

### I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

### II. Welcome — Mr. Mac Wade, Port of Morgan City- Executive Director

### III. Roll Call

|                                                                    |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Chairman Gordon Dove, GOCA                                         | Present       |
| Mr. Charles Reulet for Sec. Dustin Davidson, DOCE                  | Present       |
| Mr. Matthew Weigel for Sec. Tyler Bosworth, LDWF                   | Present       |
| Mr. Jerry Lang for Sec. Burdette, DEQ                              | Present       |
| Mr. Brandon Burris for Billy Nungesser, Lt. Gov Office             | <b>Absent</b> |
| Mr. Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm                               | Present       |
| Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin                              | Present       |
| Mr. Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin                                | <b>Absent</b> |
| Mr. Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion                                | Present       |
| Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin                             | Present       |
| Mr. Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin                                | Present       |
| Mr. Robert Jordan Teche/Vermillion Parish                          | Present       |
| Mr. John Lane, Breton Sound Basin                                  | Present       |
| Mr. David Richard, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin                          | <b>Absent</b> |
| Mr. Stephen Sagrera, At Large                                      | <b>Absent</b> |
| Pres. Keith Hinkley, At Large                                      | Present       |
| Mr. Craig Romero, At Large                                         | Present       |
| Rep. Zeringue, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House    | Present       |
| Sen. Hensgens, Ex-officio, Designee of the President of the Senate | <b>Absent</b> |

### IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion by: Mr. Alford

Seconded by: Mr. Lane (unanimously approved by board)

### V. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Mr. Jordan

Seconded by: Mr. Hidalgo (unanimously approved by board)

### VI. Old Business/Announcements

- VII. CPRA Implementation Update – Michael Hare, CPRA- Executive Director (video:0:06:45)** Mr. Hare provided Chairman Dove and the board with updates on ongoing coastal projects: (106 active projects) 33 projects in construction, 72 in engineering and design and 1 project in planning and other projects around the South-Central coastal area, such as **Marsh**



**Island Wildlife Refuge Restoration** (newly initiated engineering and design effort; project conceived and planned in close coordination with LDWF and features approximately 500 acres of marsh creation and 3 miles of shoreline protection), the **Bayou Terrebonne Increment of the Terrebonne Basin Ridge** (NRDA approved for E&D in 2017 and construction funding in 2020 following extensive Louisiana TIG screening, with prior E&D advanced to 95% design/shovel ready by 2021, including modeling, surveys, permitting, stakeholder coordination and land rights; CPRA kickoff August 20, 2026-approximately 2 years anticipated to reach final design) and Marsh Creation Projects (details below). Mr. Hare also announced the retirement of Mr. Brad Miller and acknowledged Brad's commitment and how he has been a driving force behind some of CPRA's most important restoration projects, including Caminada 1 & 2, Caillou Lake Headlands, Spanish Pass, and Maurepas. His closing announcements for upcoming events were: CPRA will host its annual **Acadian Cultural Heritage event** on Saturday, August 29, from 1–4 p.m. at the LSU Center for River Studies in Baton Rouge. **Love Our Waterways Cleanups in September:** The initiative calls on Louisianans to help clean rivers, lakes, bayous, and shorelines across the state. Registration is open now, providing an opportunity for individuals, families, and groups to get involved throughout September. **International Coastal Cleanup** – September 19: Event volunteers can sign up for International Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. at Elmer's Island Wildlife Refuge. Our next meeting **CPRA Board meeting** will be on September 16 at 9:30 at the State Capitol-HCR 1.

- **State Wildlife Refuge Terracing and Shoreline Protection:** Louisiana's oldest state-managed wildlife refuge; to protect birds and wildlife. Its purpose is to protect interior marshes from Vermilion Bay and reduce shoreline erosion and create additional marsh habitat. Estimated Cost: \$10.31 million (Funding: \$5.88M GOMESA; \$3.0M LA Conservation & Energy; \$1.34M State Surplus; \$100K LDWF).
- **Cheniere au Tigre Ridge Restoration:** Completed July 7, 2026. This project restored approximately five areas of Chenier ridge damaged by Hurricanes Laura and Delta.
- **Schooner Bayou Rehabilitation:** Construction is scheduled to be completed this month (August 2026). Improvements include structural repairs, new steel sheet-pile walls, upgraded gates, and dome structures. Restores the structure's ability to control salinity and protect freshwater marshes, agricultural lands, and navigation in the Mermentau Basin.
- **Cheniere au Tigre Shoreline Protection Gap Closure:** The Notice to Proceed executed August 6, 2026 - Patriot Industries, LLC. Closes gaps between existing segmented rock breakwaters along the Chenière au Tigre shoreline. The project will provide more continuous coastal protection, reducing erosion and protecting remaining marsh habitat.
- **Vermilion Parish Ridge Restoration & Shoreline Protection:** Pending the receipt of the clean water permit from USACE, Phase 2 Increment 1 advertisement and construction kickoff are anticipated by the end of the year. Project will address significant shoreline erosion, with retreat rates averaging approximately 4 feet per year in the project area.

## VIII. **St. Mary Levee District Projects – Michael Brocato, St. Mary Levee District- Executive Director (video:0:20:05)**

Mr. Brocato provided the board with a brief overview of the SLMD's mission and a little background info: St. Mary Levee District was established in 2007 to unify flood protection efforts across the parish. He indicated that prior to the formation of the SMLD, the flood control responsibilities were divided among the Atchafalaya Basin Levee District, St. Mary Parish Government, Town of Berwick and the City of Morgan City. He also updated some of the completed projects they've done since 2013: Bayou Teche Flood Control Structure (closed a loop between the Wake Lake Outlet and the Charenton Canal), Bayou Chene (developed to prevent flooding in multiple LA parishes caused by high water events in the MS River and Atchafalaya Basin), Bayou Teche Flood Control Structure (constructed to close the final gap in St. Mary's Parish's regional flood protection system and reduce flooding risks for the City of Franklin and surrounding unincorporated areas), Franklin Canal Flood Protection System (provides critical flood protection in Franklin and along U.S. Highway 90 by addressing storm surge and reverse flow issues in the Franklin Canal) and the Yokely Levee Extension (ties into the far West end of the federal Yokley Levee along the Charenton Canal, consisting of removable floodwall in the 2 ship yards on the canal. This allows day

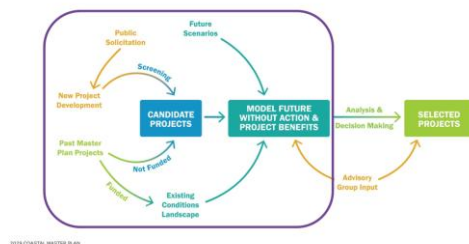


to day access to the water and the ability to protect during storm surge events, completed in 2022). Mr. Brocato also enlightened the board on upcoming projects in construction and under design. TE-168 Pump Station Rehab Project (3 pump station rehabs, 2 weirs and one inlet enlargement are being completed), Morgan City – Lakeside Flood Protection Project (Priority 1) (this project will consist of approximately 2,465 linear feet of flood protection utilizing deployable floodwall barriers along the Lakefront bulkhead: estimated cost \$30M).

## IX. Coastal Master Plan Update – *Brian Lezina and Katie Freer, CPRA (video:0:37:04)*

Mr. Lezina & Ms. Freer updated the board on the 2029 coastal master plan process. Mr. Lezina highlighted three key points: He stated that they want to make sure the plan **remains grounded in the best available science and engineering**, while recognizing the value in what the coastal residents see going on in their particular areas. He also noted that CPRA prides itself on the **transparency** that they have through the data, decision-making and everything else. And finally, the plan is **adaptive**, the plan is to put projects on the ground. It is reflective of how CPRA does that day-to-day with projects, taking advantage of the 20+ years that the agency has been in existence. Ms. Freer then updated on the plan development process. She stated that they first identify candidate projects, then use predictive models to look at how projects might influence the landscape compared to a future without action and compare data. Ms. Freer also updated on the public engagement solicitation period and how they solicit projects ideas from the public, screen them and that provides CPRA with a list of candidate projects. In all, they have received over 200 submissions (27 of the projects don't fit well within the modeling framework, so they are being split out for more targeted investigation with 18 other project submissions being screened out) from the first public solicitation period (many were restoration projects/flood risk reduction. Ms. Freer indicated that there are 14 that are still in the works, and those will be shuffled into other categories as the process goes on. In a few days, CPRA will be publishing a website that summarizes everything that they have received in the first public solicitation period. In closing, Ms. Freer provided the board with the timeline for the master plan development (slide below) and stated that they are hoping to wrap up modeling toward the end of next year into early 2028. Ms. Freer closed with, **WHAT'S NEXT?**: The second public solicitation (PS#2) period for MP29 new project ideas and coastal challenges is expected to open this fall, when the Future Without Action (FWOA) model results are available. Once FWOA results are available, PS#2 will open, meaning that we will begin accepting new project ideas and coastal challenges again. At that time, we'll also begin outreach efforts to highlight the new FWOA site and how it can inspire new project ideas for the 2029 plan. Details will be shared here: <https://coastal.la.gov/our-plan/2029-coastal-master-plan/>, through CPRA news emails, and on social media as event details are solidified.

MASTER PLAN PROCESS – WHERE ARE WE?



WHAT WAS RECEIVED IN PUBLIC SOLICITATION #1

### Themes

- "Protective" restoration
- Flood risk reduction in unaddressed areas
- Reducing saltwater intrusion
- Restoring impounded wetlands
- Sediment trapping/transport

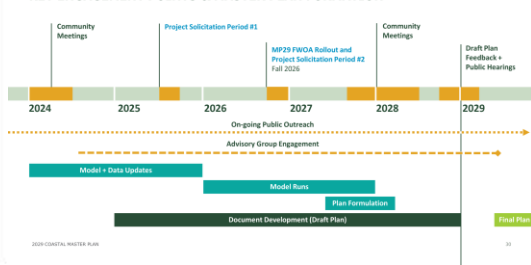




## PS#1 SUMMARY - SCREENED PROJECTS RESULTS



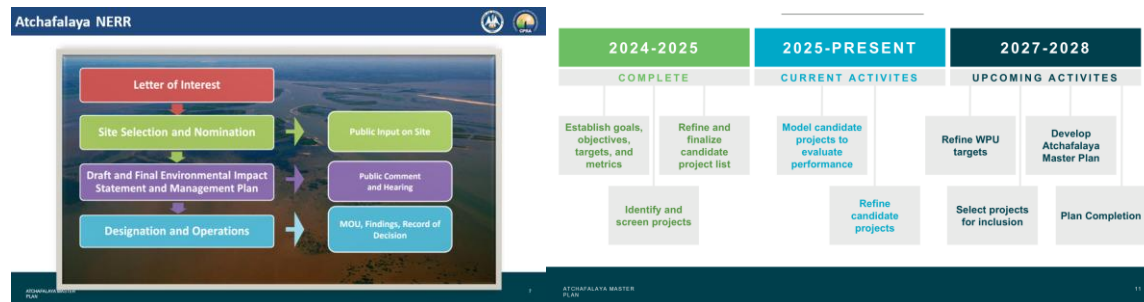
## KEY ENGAGEMENT POINTS & MASTER PLAN FORMATION



### X. Atchafalaya Update – Brian Lezina and Michael Coulon, CPRA (video:1:02:26)

Mr. Lezina & Mr. Coulon updated the board on the Atchafalaya Basin highlighting a few projects that they're actively engaged in right now, that are either moving water or reconnecting water or in some cases deepening habitat. He stated that there is a sedimentation problem in the basin and that we're losing deep water habitats that are important to fisheries. They highlighted a few projects: **Grimmett Canal Improvements, Murphy Lake Dept Restoration, Dredging in Big Bayou Pigeon**, indicating that they are good deep-water habitat providing habitat for fisheries but also some have been so bad that they are unsafe for navigation or may even impact navigation fully. Mr. Coulon also mentioned the National Estuarine Research Reserve. This is a federal-state partnership bringing together people, protecting these places but gives opportunities for research, engaging the community members to get out, enjoy and understand how to better these areas. He stated the state's role is land ownership and management, reserve staff members and program implementation funding (30% match) with the federal role being national policy and program guidance, technical assistance, program coordination, funding (70%) matching. This allows not just more science and data but also be part of a larger program so they can look at changes across the Gulf Coast. Mr. Coulon stated that the Atchafalaya Master Plan is similar to the coastal master plan, and its intended function is to guide future projects throughout the system and prioritize beneficial projects and place an emphasis on restoring the basin. The Atchafalaya Master Plan Boundary is divided into 11 watershed planning units (WPUs) based off the hydrologic influences, different ecological characteristics throughout the system. In closing, Mr. Coulon highlighted the goal of the Atchafalaya Plan, which is to manage the use of the Atchafalaya River System sediments and water to maximize ecosystem functions and support continued human uses. He highlighted the plan will guide future investments across the Atchafalaya River System; describes and considers multiple potential future conditions; includes projects to address some of the key challenges; and maps important issues such as sedimentation, water quality, and habitat degradation.

## PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



### XI. Parish Matching Program – Joe Johnston and Charles Sabin, CPRA (video:1:19:20)

Mr. Johnston provided a quick update to the board on the Parish Matching program. He stated that since 2024, CPRA has a total of 18 projects. The FY27 will have a total of \$5,000,000 of GOMESA funding the match with parishes on their priority projects. He noted that proposals must be no more than 10 pages in length and include the following items (listed on slide below). In closing, he stated that projects will be evaluated and prioritized based on certain criteria (listed on slide 2 below).



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



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**FY27 Parish Matching Program**

- Introduction
- Eligibility
- Timeline and Considerations
- Proposal sections
- Where to find RFP
- Program POC Info

State of Louisiana  
Request for Proposals

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is seeking proposals for the FY27 Parish Matching Program. The program is designed to provide funding to local governments for coastal protection and restoration projects. The program is open to all local governments in Louisiana. The program is designed to provide funding to local governments for coastal protection and restoration projects. The program is open to all local governments in Louisiana.

Eligible local governments must submit a proposal by the deadline. The proposal must include the following information:

- Project description
- Project location
- Project budget
- Project timeline
- Project impact
- Project justification
- Project evaluation
- Project monitoring
- Project reporting
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**FY27 Parish Matching Program Proposals**

- No more than 10 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

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**FY27 Parish Matching Program Fund Timeline-**

| RFP Live     | Proposals Due | Evaluation   | Notifications | Implementation |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Aug 19, 2026 | Dec 11, 2026  | Dec-Feb 2027 | March 2027    |                |

- 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
  - Acreage restored and/or area benefitted
  - Amount of resilience improvements
  - Synergy with other restoration and/or resilience efforts

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**Project Types**

- Resilience/non-structural measures (Stormwater Management, Green Infrastructure, etc.)
- Vegetative plantings
- Invasive species control and/or removal
- Oyster reef/culch placement
- Living shoreline/Shoreline protection
- Hydrologic restoration
- Marsh creation and terracing
- Barrier island and headland sand fencing

1. Mandeville Lakefront, St. Tammany Parish, 2025  
2. Grand Isle Dune Planting, Jefferson Parish, 2024

## XII. Public Comment

## XIII. Adjourn

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois

Seconded by: Pres. Jewell/Unanimous 2<sup>nd</sup>