



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



## Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

9:30 AM

State Capitol Building-Committee Room 6

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 Bren Haase	Present
Keith Lovell, DNR	Present
Barbara Aquillard, DOTD	Present
Patrick Banks/Cole Garret/Sec. Shadoin, LDWF	Present
Celena Cage, DEQ	Present
Pat Witty, LED	Present
Joey Breaux, LDAF	Present
Pat Forbes, DOA	Present
Billy Broussard, LDI	Absent
Sean Wyatt, GOHSEP	Present
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	Present
Stephen Sagrera, Teche/Vermillion Parish	Absent
Lieutenant Governor's Office	Absent
Mike Bayham for Pres. McInnis, Breton Sound Basin	Present
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. Bourgeois

Second by: Ms. Cormier

Unanimously Approved

### IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Mr. Hidalgo

Second by: Ms. Gorman

Unanimously Approved

### V. Old Business/Announcements

- Recognition of Governor Edwards
- R. King Milling Distinguished Coastal Service Award (Presented to Mark Wingate-USACE)
- Schedule of Upcoming Meetings



**VI. Update on Permanent Canal Closure & Pumps for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System — Col. Cullen Jones, USACE (video: 00:45:38)** Col. Jones provided an update to the board on the PCCP structures. He indicated that the bottom line up front is that all 17 pumps across the three PCCP structures have been inspected, undergone interim corrective actions if they were necessary, and determined reliable for the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season by 1 June 2023. He stated that USACE and its construction partner, PCCP Joint Venture, have initiated a multi-year effort to deliver their commitment of reliable and sustainable hurricane and storm damage risk reduction structures at the three outfall canals. USACE will continue to collaborate with our state partners and ensure our stakeholder and the public remain informed throughout the process. In closing, the Colonel stated their commitment is to ensure open and transparent communication throughout the process. Provide regular and recurring updates to partners, stakeholders and the public.

**VII. 2023 Year End Review- Bren Haase, CPRA (video: 00:59:10)** Chairman Haase gave an overview of the CPRA 2023 Year in Review. In 2023 there were 15 new construction projects started and the value of those projects were \$3B+ total value. There were 8 projects completed worth about \$225M total value with 10miles of levee improved over that period of time. There have been about 6,600 acres of marsh created as a result of about 22+ million cubic yards of sediment pumped (an idea of how much that is: about the size of 6 Superdomes). In regards to specific projects that have been completed: **South Pass Bird Island (Plaquemines Parish)** - This project included re-dredging two existing crevasses off of South Pass and dredging a new, smaller crevasse from one of the two larger crevasses. The benefit of this project was that the sediment from dredging these crevasses was used to create approximately 5 acres of nesting island with sediments dredged from South Pass (completed September 2023). **Grand Cheniere (Plaquemines Parish)** - Project will restore around 340 acres of marsh in south Plaquemines Parish. \$65 million NRDA Project (in progress). **Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline Protection-** Is a \$69 million NRDA project. CPRA completed construction on the project in July 2023. The project supports both restoration and resiliency objectives with 11 miles of shoreline protection through two types of breakwater structures: Wave Attenuation Devices (WADs)and interlocking ShoreJax. These concrete structures are designed to furnish protection against wave erosion for the fragile marsh and to offer ideal surfaces for oysters to settle and grow. The resulting oyster reefs are anticipated to enhance productivity of a variety of species and other oyster reefs in the estuary—more broadly supporting Louisiana's oyster industry, which leads the nation with \$35 million annual dockside sales. **Henderson Lake Spoil Bank Gapping-** \$1.5 Million project funded through capital outlay. Hydrologic restoration project located west of the Atchafalaya River along the Dixie Pipeline Canal in St. Martin and St. Landry parishes. to the lower basin. The project included the construction of 25 indented gaps, which help increase the flow of water into Henderson Lake and improve the water and habitat quality of the



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



lake. **Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation**- \$11M project funded by CWPPRA and non-Deepwater Horizon NRDA. Construction on the project began in August 2023 to create nearly 400 acres of brackish marsh and tidal using sediment dredged and pumped from the nearby Calcasieu Ship Channel. This material would have to be removed anyway to support transportation and navigation, making this a multi-beneficial, cost effective project. Bayou **Lafourche Pumping Capacity Improvements**-\$96 million pump station in Donaldsonville where Bayou Lafourche meets the MS River. CPRA has pledged over \$50 million toward repayment of the loan using a portion of future Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) revenues it will receive from offshore federal oil and gas leases. BLFWD will repay the balance of the loan with revenues from an existing property tax. Estimated construction completion, mid 2025. **Spanish Pass Marsh & Ridge Creation**-Funded with Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill settlement funds implemented through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Act (NRDA) and distributed by the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG). 1,670 acres of marsh built with nearly 11 million cubic yards of sediment largest marsh and ridge creation project by both acres built and volume dredged. Total Cost: \$100.2 million. **Large Scale Barataria Marsh Creation-Upper Barataria Component**- The Upper Barataria Marsh Creation Project is a joint effort between NOAA and CPRA. It is one of the largest habitat restoration projects ever led by NOAA, supporting a diverse population of fish and other marine wildlife, and one of the largest dredging projects ever constructed in Louisiana. \$181 Million NRDA project. **Freshwater Bayou Canal Shoreline Protection** - The Freshwater Bayou Shoreline Protection project, completed in July 2023, consists of approximately 7,500 linear feet of foreshore rock dike along Freshwater Bayou Canal in Vermilion Parish. The \$5.3 million project, funded through a partnership between CPRA and Vermilion Parish, protects the shoreline and adjacent marsh from further deterioration by combatting tidal scour and saltwater intrusion. **Bucktown Living Shoreline**- The Bucktown Living Shoreline project will use nine rock breakwaters to provide another layer of protection to the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) levee system that safeguards New Orleans and become the first project of its kind used to protect a federal levee system. \$15.5 Million project. **New Orleans Landbridge**- \$25 million CWPPRA Project. The New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation project will restore 253 acres of brackish marsh in three areas —along both the west and east sides flanking the highway and an area at Bay Jaune Point. Once complete, the stabilized shoreline will reduce erosion and interior marsh loss and maintain the integrity of the Landbridge. **Lower Lafitte Tidal Protection**- \$14 million tidal surge levee and floodwall project. Funded by CPRA, Department of Transportation and Development, Gulf of Mexico Security Act and state Capital Outlay funds. **Lake Borgne Marsh Creation**- \$115 million project funded through NRDA. The Lake Borgne Marsh Creation project will restore the deteriorating marsh along the lake's south shore using 13 million cubic yards of dredged material to create and nourish approximately 2,770 acres of land. **Labranche Marsh Creation**- \$57 Million project. Taking place right off I-10 near the Bonnet Carre Spillway. **Southwest Coastal**- Over the summer CPRA signed a project partnership agreement with the Corps for the \$6.5 billion Southwest Coastal Louisiana hurricane and storm damage risk reduction and coastal ecosystem restoration project. The project will be cost shared at 65% federal and 35% by CPRA. An additional \$10 million Community Project Funding will be applied toward project's first restoration features, including six miles of shoreline protection at Rockefeller Refuge. Twenty-seven structures have cleared all assessments and are ready to be raised with 17 in Vermillion Parish and 10 in Calcasieu Parish. USACE will host public meetings in late summer 2023, where homeowners can get more information on the project and begin registering for the elevation program. Structure elevations are expected to begin in June 2024. **The Chandeleur Islands Restoration Project**- Engineering and design plans are underway for the restoration of the Chandeleur Islands and could be complete by 2025. The Chandeleur Islands are incredibly significant to both the state of Louisiana and the entire country as part of the second established national wildlife refuge in the U.S., Breton National Wildlife Refuge, which supports an incredibly diverse group of wildlife and fisheries species. **Morganza to the Gulf Progress**- The Elliot Jones Pump station started over two years ago, and completed it in July of this year. The Elliot Jones Pump Station is an approximately 1,000 CFS pump station and associated tie-ins to be located within Elliot Jones Canal along the Western Tie-In Alignment of the Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Risk Reduction System. Construction started on the pump station in 2019 and cost about \$14 million. It will pump the Chacahoula Basin in the Gibson/Black Bayou Area with for 60" electric pumps.



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



**Humble Canal-** USACE broke ground on the Humble Canal just about a year ago marking the first segment of the critical 98-mile Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Risk Reduction System to be built with federal dollars. The Corps is funding the Humble Canal pre-load project with \$12million from New Start funding approved by the federal government in January 2020. **West Shore Lake Pontchartrain & River Reintroduction Into Maurepas Swamp-** In progress. In conclusion, Chairman Haase announced that we had a successful passage of the Master Plan this year as well as the Annual Plan. **\$110M Credited to HSDRRS Repayment-** Louisiana has been allowed by the Army Corps of Engineers to count \$110 million spent on two major coastal restoration projects in recent years as credits towards the state’s \$1.12 billion share of the cost of the \$14.6 billion post-Katrina New Orleans area hurricane levee system. The deal was signed Sept. 27, just three days before the state was required to have repaid two-thirds of its share of the levee projects, or be forced to pay an estimated \$1.5 billion in additional interest costs when the remainder of its share is due in 2031. The state would be able to count \$69.8 million from the \$120.7 million Whiskey Island barrier island restoration project and \$40.5 million from the \$212.9 million Caminada Headlands restoration project as payments towards the levee system. **Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion-**The project is widely regarded as the most ambitious environmental restoration project in the state’s history. Once operational, the first-of-its-kind project will harness the land-building power of the Mississippi River to build and sustain up to 26,000 acres of wetlands in the Barataria Basin—an area experiencing some of the highest rates of land loss in the world. Mr. Haase also updated on the **2023 Policy Accomplishments:** Federal Funding progress; 1<sup>st</sup> Offshore Wind Energy Lease Sale in the Gulf of Mexico; \$50B low carbon investments in the private sector; Chief Resilience Officer formally established (LA Resilience Task Force Created), and an \$1.1B Solar Panel manufacturing facility. **Terrebonne & Lafourche- Coastal Adaptation Initiative:** The proposed Terrebonne and Lafourche Coastal Adaptation Initiative is designed to advance a holistic vision for resilience in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes through regional partnerships and implementation of a variety of project types that address vulnerabilities impacting the built environment, natural environment, quality of life, wellbeing and culture, and economic opportunity. In closing, Chairman Haase shared the news that in 2023, there were approximately 7,600 + visitors at the LSU Center for River Studies for the Free Sunday Events and that the Nicholls broke ground on their Coastal Center.

**VIII. FY 25 Draft CPRA Annual Plan and Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan- Greg Grandy, CPRA (video: 01:24:03)** Mr. Grandy presented on the FY 2024 Annual Plan – 15th one under legislative guidance that established CPRA. Public Comments for the Annual Plan will be accepted at [coastal@la.gov](mailto:coastal@la.gov) or mailed to 150 Terrace Ave, BR, LA 70802. The sooner we get comments in, the easier it is to incorporate them. Total projected revenues and expenditures FY 2025: Other category includes: OM&M Federal Funds (\$43M), OM&M FEMA funds (\$56M), NOAA Grant Funding (\$10M), BOEM Funding (\$1.5M), EPA Grant Funding (\$2M) (slide below). Total Projected Expenditures FY 2025 by Project Phase: \$1.68B: 8% is OM&M; West Belle Headlands repairs included in OM&M, doubling budget – that is why the construction number is not as high as it has been (slide below).

PROGRAM	REVENUE PROJECTIONS	EXPENDITURE PROJECTIONS
GOMESA	\$180 Million	\$180 Million
NBDA	\$525 Million	\$525 Million
NRFV	\$198 Million	\$198 Million
RESTORE	\$172 Million	\$172 Million
CWPPRA (Federal)	\$118 Million	\$118 Million
State (Non-Supplies)	\$91 Million	\$91 Million
State (Supplies)	\$273 Million	\$273 Million
Other	\$117 Million	\$117 Million

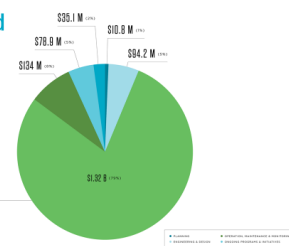
Total Projected Revenues and Expenditures FY 2025

BY FUNDING PROGRAM

Total Projected Expenditures FY 2025

BY PROJECT PHASE

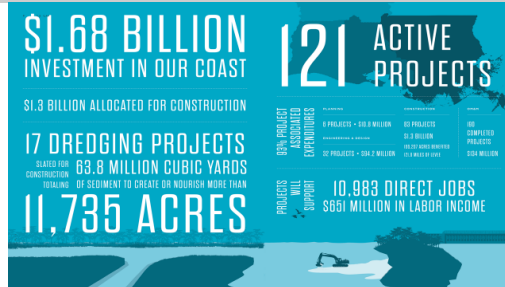
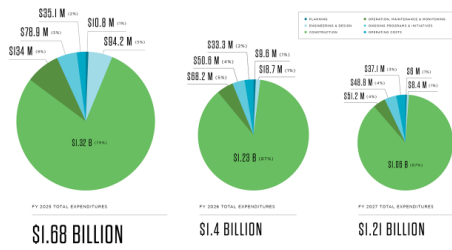
FY 2025 TOTAL EXPENDITURES  
\$1.68 BILLION



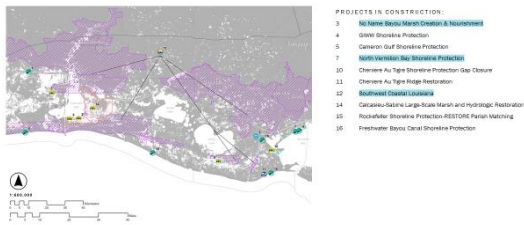




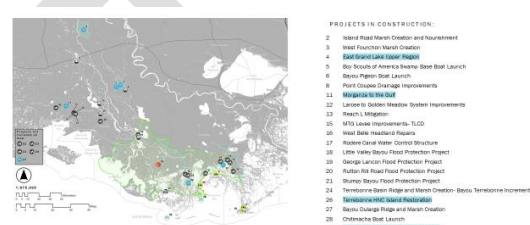
# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



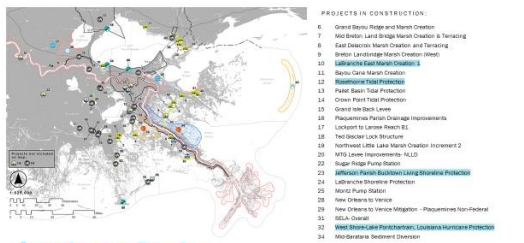
Mr. Grandy updated the board on regional projects by region. In the Southwest Region, there are 16 active projects with 10 in construction, and 6 E&D. In the South Central Region, there are 39 active projects with 26 in construction, 10 in E&D, 3 in planning. The Southeast Region has 66 active projects: 47 in construction, 16 in E&D, 3 in planning.



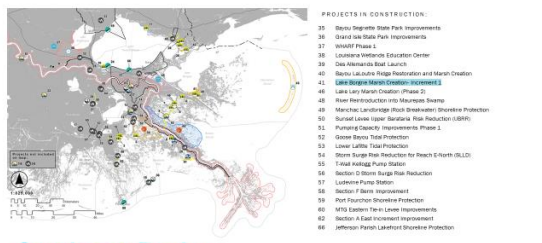
**Southwest Region**  
16 ACTIVE PROJECTS: 10 IN CONSTRUCTION, 6 IN E&D



**South Central Region**  
39 ACTIVE PROJECTS: 26 IN CONSTRUCTION, 10 IN E&D, 3 IN PLANNING



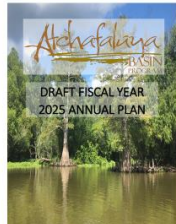
**Southwest Region**  
66 ACTIVE PROJECTS: 47 IN CONSTRUCTION, 16 IN E&D, 3 IN PLANNING



**Southwest Region**  
66 ACTIVE PROJECTS: 47 IN CONSTRUCTION, 16 IN E&D, 3 IN PLANNING

In closing, Mr. Grandy updated that the Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan- Appendix D FY 25 projects (slide below).

## Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan - APPENDIX D



### FY 25 PROJECTS:

- Water Quality/Water Management**
  - Dredging in Big Bayou Pigeon
  - Grimmett Canal Improvements
  - Pointe Coupee Water Flow Improvements
  - Murphy Lake Depth Restoration
  - East Grand Lake Upper Region
- Recreation/Access, Other**
  - Sandy Cove Boat Launch
  - Cajun Coast Welcome Center Trail
  - Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch Improvements
- Updates to the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana State Master Plan**

**View the Draft FY 2025 Annual Plan & Interactive Map**

AP25.COASTAL.LA.GOV

COMMENTS ACCEPTED UNTIL FEBRUARY 18, 2024

## IX. Executive Session

- Notice of Intent to Sue for Alleged Violations of the Endangered Species Act in Connection with the Proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project in Louisiana filed by Jurisich Oysters, LLC, AmeriPure Processing, Inc., Matthew Tesvich, the International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute, the ALERT Project of Earth Island Institute, and the Earth Island Institute on November 7, 2023



# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



- Plaquemines Parish Government v. Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, No. 68-526, 25<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court for the Parish of Plaquemines, Division “B”

**X. Public Comment**

**XI. Adjourn**

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

Meeting video: [https://house.louisiana.gov/H\\_Video/VideoArchivePlayer?v=house/2023/dec/1213\\_23\\_CPRA](https://house.louisiana.gov/H_Video/VideoArchivePlayer?v=house/2023/dec/1213_23_CPRA)

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