



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024

9:30 AM

Galvez Building-DEQ

(Oliver Pollock Room)

602 N 5th St. -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
Charles Reulet/Dustin Davidson for Sec. Tyler Gray, DENR	Present
Edward Knight for Sec. Donahue, DOTD	Present
Tyler Bosworth for Sec. Shehan, LDWF	Present
Jerry Lang for Sec. Giacometto, DEQ	Present
Pat Witty for Sec. Bourgeois, LED	Present
Caitlin Joubert for Comm. Strain, LDAF	Present
Gina Campo for Comm. Barras, DOA	Present
Mr. Cerniauskas for Comm. Temple, LDI	Present
Dir. Jacques Thibodaux, GOHSEP	Present
Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	Present
Scott Burke, Barataria Basin	Present
Monica Gorman, Pontchartrain Basin	Present
Anthony Bursas for 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	Present
Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser	Present
John Lane for Guy 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

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois
Second by: Mr. Hidalgo
Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

v. Old Business/Announcements

vi. FY 2025 Annual Plan — Glenn Ledet, Jr., CPRA (video: 00:06:47)



Mr. Ledet presented to the board on the Annual Plan FY 25. He stated that CPRA is charged with the huge responsibility of implementing projects that protect and restore Louisiana’s fading coast, and that they do not accept this role lightly. Building large, transformative projects takes constant meticulous planning, engineering, and science, and each year they put those efforts together to formulate the Annual Plan. This year, CPRA is presenting to the Legislature its Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Plan, which is the largest single-year investment in our coast to date, with \$1.71 billion allotted to the design, engineering, and construction of 136 projects, and ongoing operation, maintenance, and monitoring of an additional 190 completed projects across coastal Louisiana. The plan includes 136 active projects: 83 in Construction; 45 in engineering and design and 8 in planning. There are 19 dredging projects slated for construction that would result in pumping 69.1 million cubic yards of sediment to create or nourish almost 13,000 acres of Marsh. Mr. Ledet stated that these projects would support over 11,000 direct jobs in Louisiana and around \$670 million in labor income. He also stated that they did receive some constructive criticism- Some land rights issues that they’re working on getting resolved in Terrebonne Parish and another comment addressed preserving cultural and historical landscapes, which is something they want to place a greater emphasis on. In closing, he stated that all comments were reviewed and taken into consideration when making changes to the Annual Plan.

- Board Discussion
- Public Comment
- Board Action Required (*Resolution unanimously approved by members*)

First round of votes--: Motion by: Mr. Tony Alford/2nd by Ms. Laurie Cormier

Second round for clarification as Resolution and not Plan: Motion by: Ms. Cormier/2nd by Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois

vii. Federal Update – Neal McMillin, DENR (video: 00:23:04) Mr. McMillin provided the board with an update on matters at the Federal level. He informed the members that Congress partially enacted 6 of the 12 FY24 appropriations bills by the March 8th deadline, over 5 months into the fiscal year. President Biden signed this partial appropriation on March 8. This is the first time since 2018 that a 12-bill “omnibus” was not passed. Mr. McMillin stated that Congress has until March 22 to enact the remaining appropriation bills (below is a chart of Topline Numbers for Enacted Bills and Topline Numbers for Notable Agencies).

FY 2024 Appropriations - Enacted Bills

Appropriations Bill	FY 2024 Total	Difference from FY23 Enacted
Agriculture-FDA	\$26.2B	+\$700M
Military Construction-VA	\$153.9B	-\$300M
Energy & Water	\$58.2B	+\$4.2B
Transportation-HUD	\$89.4B	-\$2.2B
Interior & Environment	\$38.9B	Level
Commerce-Justice-Science	\$66.5B	-\$13.9B

FY 2024 Appropriations - Notable Agencies

Agency	FY 2024 Total	Difference from FY23 Enacted
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	\$155.1M	-\$27.8M
Council on Environmental Quality	\$4.63M	-\$47K
EPA	\$9.15B	-\$977M
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	\$1.72B	-\$50.6M
NOAA	\$6.36B	+\$162M

(Below is a chart showing the Army Corps Funding to Coastal LA Projects)



Army Corps Funding to Coastal LA Projects

Budgeted Projects Funded

- \$185.3M - Mississippi River, Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico O&M
- \$62.42M - Atchafalaya River & Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black O&M
- \$36.8M - Calcasieu River and Pass O&M
- \$20.68M - Atchafalaya Basin & Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System O&M
- \$19.1M - Gulf Intracoastal Waterway O&M
- \$18M - Calcasieu River and Pass (+\$9M via Cassidy CDS)
- \$11.34M - Old River O&M
- \$9.1M - Freshwater Bayou O&M
- \$5.76 - Houma Navigation Canal O&M
- \$4.875M - Louisiana Coastal Area
- \$4.8M - Mississippi River Outlets at Venice
- \$3.6M - Bonnet Carré Spillway O&M
- \$3.5M - Bayou Lafourche and Lafourche Jump Waterway O&M
- \$2.5M - Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study
- \$2M - Mississippi Delta Region O&M
- \$800K - Bayou Sorrel Lock Investigation
- \$600K - Lafitte Investigation

Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) / Community Project Funding

- \$28M - Morganza to the Gulf (Cassidy/Graves/Scalise)
- \$500K - Houma Navigational Canal Investigation (Cassidy/Graves/Scalise)
- + \$500K - Mermentau River O&M (Higgins)
- \$250K - Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Ecosystem Restoration (Cassidy)

Note: Sen. Kennedy secured his first E&W CDS in FY24, \$36.5M for J. Bennett Johnston Waterway. He is the Ranking Member of the Energy & Water Subcommittee.



Mr. McMillin also indicated that Additional Valuable Provisions in E&W for LA have been procured: Resiliency Funding has been unlocked with assistance from Sen. Kennedy, and Congressman Graves that secured provisions in the bill text of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 to benefit the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain project. Once deemed fully funded at \$760 million, the project had received an additional \$450 million from a disaster supplemental for resiliency improvements. Yet with cost escalations, the appropriated funding was inadequate to complete the project, but the additional \$450 million was locked away until the project was finished. The provisions allowed those dollars to be deployed to funding the ongoing construction of West Shore. The provision also helped Comite River Diversion. Mr. McMillin’s next update was regarding the Presidents FY 25 Budget. He indicated that the President released his \$7.2 trillion FY 2025 budget on March 11, pointing out **Notable Cross-Agency Funding Priorities for Coastal:** Budget proposes \$23 billion in climate adaptation and resilience across the Dept. of Commerce (NOAA), Dept. of Interior, Dept. of Homeland Security (FEMA), Dept. of Agriculture, Army Corps, EPA, and Dept. of Defense. This includes *“resources for flood hazard mapping, including development of new data to support future flood conditions so that communities and Americans have the most up-to-date information regarding their flood risk.”* Budget commits over \$1 billion to support environmental permitting capacity for environmental review and permitting processes that are *“effective, efficient, and transparent, guided by science, and shaped by early and meaningful public engagement and input.”* In closing, Mr. McMillin updated on the NFWF’s 2024 America the Beautiful Challenge providing key dates (April 4-Pre Proposal due; July 15- Full proposal due by invitation only. As well as the National Coastal Resilience Fund with key dates being April 10- pre proposal due; Mid-End May-Full proposal invitations, July 2- Full proposal due (invite only) and Late Nov/Early Dec—awards announced. Note: The RISEE Act proposes to dedicate 12.5% of offshore wind revenues to this funding source through competitive grants and formula funding to coastal states.



- VIII. **Coastal Day and Week– Bren Haase & Glenn Ledet, CPRA (video 00:49:45):** Mr. Haase presented to the board the details of the March 25th Coastal Day events as well as a series of Webinars (Coastal Industry Week). Mr. Haase provided an outline of the schedule which included the Business Networking & Matchmaking, Center for River Studies Tour, Lunch, Briefing with Governor Landry, Outreach with Legislators, Stakeholder panel, CPRA Construction Project Forecast and closing out the day with the Seafood Boil & Reception (sponsored by: Coast builders Coalition, Coalition to Restore Coastal LA & Restore MS River Delta).
- IX. **Why you need Shoreline Erosion Control Solutions – Joe Pandak, Supreme Services (video: 01:02:48)** Mr. Pandak pitched to the CPRA Board members as to why they should use Shoreline Erosion Control Solutions (SECS) for future onshore & offshore erosion projects. He stated, that their marine engineered, patented, eco-friendly technology prevents and reverses the effects of erosion by diffusing and deflecting wave energy. Traditional rock, vinyl, wood, concrete bulkheads, jetties, and groins, are designed to take the full force of a wave. This old technology is not eco-friendly, does not provide erosion control, and is less durable and more costly than our proprietary (concrete) SECS[®] units. SECS[®] Units are built in-house. He closed stating that, the company control quality and availability, enables them to provide a superior product at a competitive price. The combination of their customizable interlocking designs and the physical weight of their SECS[®] Units allows them to securely “sit” on the sea floor. Removing the need for tiebacks, costly engineering drawings, and more, further reduces installation costs.
- X. **Public Comment**
- XI. **Adjourn**
Motion by: Ms. Cormier
Second by: Ms. Gorman