



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
State Capitol Building HCR 4
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
9:30AM

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 Kline, Executive Assistant, Coastal Activities	Present
Keith Lovell, DNR	Present
Billy Williamson, DOTD	Present
Randy Myers, LDWF	Present
Sec. Brown, DEQ	Present
Tedra Cheatom, LED	Present
Joey Breaux, LDAF	Present
Pat Forbes, DOA	Present
Billy Broussard, LDI	Present
Sean Wyatt, GOHSEP	Present
Karen Gautreaux, Gov’s Advisory Comm-Chair	Present
Scott Burke, Barataria Basin	Present
Monica Gorman, Pontchartrain Basin	Present
John Helmers 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
Michael Ince, Designee for the Lieutenant Governor	Present
John Lane, 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	Present

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Lovell
Second by Mr. Hidalgo
Amended Agenda: Moved Col. Jones to be the first presenter
Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Hidalgo
Second by Mr. Lovell
Unanimously Approved

V. Old Business/Announcements

- **Commendation from Louisiana Wildlife Federation – Rebecca Triche**



VI. **Updates on New Orleans to Venice Protection Project (NOV), West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection System, Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP), and Grand Isle & Vicinity – Col. Cullen Jones, USACE (video: 00:09:34)** Col. Jones updated the board on the HSDRRS Permanent Canal Closures and progress on Pumps Grand Isle, West Shore Lake Pontchartrain New Orleans to Venice. The Colonel stated in regards to the PCCP as a good military officer, he always likes to start with the bottom line up front which is that the USACE working in conjunction with CPRA, the Flood Protection East and the contractors, they are focused on ensuring that these systems are ready for Hurricane Season 2023. And that all levels are the USACE are committed to ensure that eventually they deliver the 35 year design life for those pump systems.

London Avenue PCCP:

Pump #1 removed to determine cause for overheating during maintenance and test operations. Assessment identified advanced corrosion as primary cause of overheating.

USACE has issued a contract to repair and return Pump #1 to service.

Additional inspections will be undertaken to assess status and reliability of remaining five pumps.

Pump #3 is showing increased temperatures and will be the priority inspection.

17th ST. and Orleans Ave. PCCP

Inspection of 900 cfs pumps at Orleans Avenue to be completed week of March 13, 2023. Inspections of 1,800 pumps will begin with arrival of 1,800 cfs stoplogs (anticipate the week of March 20, 2023).

Initial inspections at 17thSt. and Orleans Ave. do not indicate same level of corrosion as with London pump #1 nor potential failure risk for the 2023 Hurricane Season.

Contingency Alternatives

Evaluation of options if PCCP pump capacity is less than Sewerage and Water Board pumping discharge

Alternative 1: Modified Operations

London Ave.: Increase gate close trigger from 3' to 4.5' and rising in Lake Pontchartrain.

17th St.: Increase gate close trigger from 4' to 5' and rising in Lake Pontchartrain

Orleans Ave.: Increase gate close trigger from 4' to 5' and rising in Lake Pontchartrain.

Alternative 2: Temporary Pump Support

Preliminary concept requiring design and geotechnical evaluation.

Forty 25 cfs submersible hydraulic pumps (640 to 1000 cfs of additional pump capacity).

Alternative 3: Combination of alternatives 1 and 2.

Path Forward

Inspection and assessment

Complete inspection assessments (being accomplished by the design-builder).

Identify root cause for advanced corrosion.

Obtain HQUSACE concurrence with revised Design Deficiency.

Temporary repairs

Complete temporary repairs prior to 01 June 2023.

Long-term repairs

Develop scope and estimate for design.

Solidify funding for permanent fix.

Complete design for permanent fix to ensure 35-year life.

Execute contract (anticipate construction to potentially last >2 years due to likely limiting of work outside hurricane season).

Contingency operations

Finish refinement of plan (keep flexible as ground situation changes).



GRAND ISLE POST-HURRICANE IDA REPAIRS

Ongoing Repairs

Interim repairs to 12 locations are nearing completion. Repairs included installation of supersack sandbags and restoring the dune section at 12 locations. Anticipated Completion –end of March 2023.

The interim repairs will remain in place until the upcoming dune repair work is completed.

Upcoming Repairs**Stone Repair Contract:**

Installation of 2,200 LF of stone dune core, repairs to existing breakwaters, repairs to the western jetty.

Anticipated Contract Award –early April 2023; Anticipated Construction Start -June 2023. Anticipated Construction Duration –270 days.

Dune Core Construction / Beach Nourishment Contract:

Installation of 21,000 LF of clay-filled geotextile core (western half of the project), repairs to the sand-filled geo-tube (eastern half of the project) and restoration of the 7-mile dune and beach.

Anticipated Contract Award –late May 2023; Anticipated Construction Start -July 2023.

Anticipated Construction Duration –400 days.

West Shore Lake Pontchartrain

Construction Status Update

Completed Work WSLP-101 Test Section Contract –Completed June 2022.

Access Road Contract –Completed March 2023.

Sand Placement 1 and 2 –Completed in December 2022/January 2023.

Stockpile Contracts –two of the three complete.

Pile Load Test Contract –Contractor has mobilized to the site.

Additional Construction Contracts WSLP 110 contract was awarded on December 21, 2022.

WSLP-107 is scheduled for award on March 16, 2023.

WSLP-101a was Advertised on February 22, 2023.

Other Items St. James Parish –Surveys and Borings complete, beginning geotechnical analysis/design.

Port of South Louisiana Airport runway extension –design funds received from CPRA/PLD.

- VII. **CPRA Implementation Update— Bren Haase, CPRA (video: 01:06:38)** Mr. Haase presented to the board that there are 100 active projects. 40 of them are in construction, 57 are in E&D, with 3 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed, 26 are hurricane protection projects and 39 are creating marsh. Mr. Haase updated the board on the following projects: **Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation (Upper Barataria Component Jefferson Parish)** This project will create habitat, reduce erosion, and protect coastal communities. The Upper Barataria Marsh Creation Project is one of the largest habitat restoration efforts to date creating 1,200 acres of marsh creation; **Cypremort State Park Improvements:** The project is located at Cypremort Point State Park. This state park lies on the border between St. Mary and Iberia parishes on Vermilion Bay. It’s about a \$ 5.6 million project with about \$4.5 million of that coming from NRDA and the remainder from State Parks; **Long Point Bayou Marsh Creation,** The project is located approximately 4 miles south of Hackberry, Louisiana east of LA Highway 27 and west of the Calcasieu Ship Channel in the Calcasieu/Sabin Basin in Cameron Parish. This project was designed and funded through CWPPRA by CPRA and USEPA, but is funded for construction through State and Federal NRDA Trustees using non-Deepwater Horizon NRDA oil spill settlement funds. Mr. Haase closed by announcing the 1st FREE Sundays are back at the Center River Studies and encouraged the members as well as the public take part in touring CRS.



VIII. **Diversion Program Update– Rudy Simoneaux, CPRA (video:01:26:47)** Mr. Simoneaux presented to the board on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion:

Major Milestones

Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion

Dec 19, 2022: USACE Record of Decision, Approval & Authorizations for Project Construction

Dec 23, 2022: 95% Design Complete

Feb 1, 2023: LA TIG Record of Decision on Project Funding

Feb 24, 2023: Acquired final property rights

Mar 8, 2023: NFWF Funding Decision

Current Project Status

Construction Phase Contracting

Finalizing contracts

Funding, Engineering Services, Construction Administration Services, Construction, and Project Management

Utility Relocation Agreements

Finalizing agreements

Mitigation Implementation

Mitigation Services Contractor Selection

Monitoring Implementation

Engineering and Design

100% Plans and Specifications and USACE Coordination

Q2 2023: Mitigation and Stewardship Outreach and Implementation begins (Fisheries/Communities)

Summer 2023: Project Construction Begins

IX. **LaBranche Shoreline Protection Project Update – Andrew Beall & Travis Moore, CPRA (video: 01:36:15)**

Mr. Moore and Mr. Beall provided the members with an update on the Labranche Shoreline Protection Project. Mr. Beall presented a slide to the members which showed the Regional Projects and funding by program: CIAP-\$6.5M; CWPPRA-\$60.0M and the State-\$21.3M. Mr. Moore presented that over 127 acres was loss between 2010 to 2021. Beneficial use placed behind the shoreline protection feature is anticipated to create 8-9 acres of marsh.

• **LaBranche Project Features:**

- 12,800 FT of Shoreline Protection
- Light Weight Aggregate Bags
- 7 Fish dips
- 2 Canals to be plugged
- Using dredged material from access channels for beneficial use.

Project Funding & Schedule

Funding Source: 2021 & 2022 Surplus Funds

- \$13M Secured in surplus funding
- \$5.7M of additional funding requested

Project Milestones: June '21-Project Kickoff; March '23-USACE Permit Received; June '23; Aug 23-Groundbreaking; Spring '24 Construction Complete.



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



- X. Long-Term Financial Outlook for Coastal Programs— Bren Haase, CPRA and Charles Sutcliffe, Governor’s Office (video: 01:17:01)** Mr. Haase & Mr. Sutcliffe presented to the board that the Coastal Program is on solid ground for the next several years and there is a science plan in place. However, Coastal problem is bigger than the amount of available sediment and bigger than the amount of available money. The 2007 Coastal Master Plan although conceptual identified project types, that if implemented, would be around \$200-\$300 billion—unfortunately an unrealistic number. Mr. Sutcliffe noted that we have to continuously invest in the management of our coast which means we need not just funding, but we need revenue streams that are predictable, reliable, and of the right magnitude to support the work that has to be done. The Annual Plan is where we match available revenues to projects for the coming fiscal year and project revenues and expenditures in a 3 year outlook. Today, CPRA is exactly where we need to be: \$1B + revenue and spending year. Today, we have a record-breaking program delivering record-breaking projects because we are able to draw from multiple revenue streams; for this to remain true a decade from now we will have to find ways to replace some of our major sources of funding. Mr. Haase stated that in the FY24 Annual Plan these (CWPPRA, GOMESA, NFWF, NRDA and the Restore Act) major revenue streams add up to \$1.7 billion in projected revenues and will support 118 active projects with major benefits for our communities, our coast, and the state economy overall. Mr. Sutcliffe stated while we have been thinking about this for some time, the need is getting more urgent the closer we get to the 2031 end of the oil spill funding streams. He identified three Critical areas of focus and asked for their continued support, and also pointed out that these do not represent the entire solution to us having a billion-dollar-a-year program a decade from now. RISEE Act (expand existing federal funding stream) Offshore Wind revenues (state and federal waters) Voluntary carbon crediting/blue carbon market. GOMESA is important to expand because it is flexible in what it can be used for and it is an annually occurring revenue stream—one for which there isn’t a lengthy application or reimbursement process. It is, however, tied to fluctuations in global energy markets which makes it unpredictable to say the least. Offshore renewable energy production is another major avenue we are lining up behind. There are many benefits to Louisiana for pursuing offshore wind including the facts that it is a clean and renewable source of energy, that our economy and workforce is uniquely positioned to excel, and it should also help contribute revenues to the coastal program because its success is dependent upon a healthy coast. In closing, Mr Haase & Mr. Sutcliffe stated the final avenue they wanted to raise today is related to voluntary carbon markets. “Blue Carbon” refers to carbon captured by the world’s ocean and coastal ecosystems (NOAA)—natural/biologically driven process in plants, soils, and marine systems. We believe that natural carbon sequestration is one of the many benefits that our restoration projects provide and are developing the science to make that a revenue-generating commodity. Those three pursuits are underway and hugely important to bringing us closer to where we need to be in ten years. But, we know that they are not the entire solution and that there was never going to be a single silver bullet.
- XI. LSU 4H Wetland Ambassadors – Catherine Fox, LSU Ag Center (video: 0:2:21:28)** Ms. Fox presented to the board members on LSU’s 4H Wetlands Ambassadors program. The purpose of the program is to provide high school students with an interest in wetlands conservation or natural resources management an immersive opportunity to gain insight into related careers, learn from professionals, develop career skills, and to become wetland leaders in their communities. Ms. Fox stated that Educational opportunities include two components: in-person retreats where ambassadors gain a foundational knowledge of



Louisiana's wetlands and coast, participate in educational workshops led by scientists and professionals, participate in training to lead educational outreach and other leadership opportunities.

Continued Learning – Ambassadors are expected to complete a certain amount of independent learning throughout their term. The programs accomplishments are: Over 32 high school 4-H members have served as wetland ambassadors. At least 2 alumni have continued their wetlands education and leadership into college with plans to pursue a career in a related field. One current ambassador also plans to pursue a career related to wetlands. A few of their upcoming projects are Southwest Region 4-H Wetlands Day – WOW and 4-H Day at the Capitol.

XII. Public Comment

XIII. Adjourn

Motion by Ms. Gautreaux
Second by Mr. Burke
Unanimously Approved

DRAFT