



State of Louisiana
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

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CPRA highlights coastal projects sponsored with CWPPRA partners

LACOMBE, LA. – Oct. 11, 2017 – The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) today joined with federal agencies in a Dedication Ceremony spotlighting \$214 million in coastal projects in Louisiana. CPRA is the state sponsor for all Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) projects. CWPPRA project federal partners include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Dept. of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Following the ceremony, federal and state officials toured the nearby active construction site of Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation, a \$28.2 million CWPPRA project in partnership between CPRA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This project is rebuilding and armoring vulnerable reaches of Lake Pontchartrain’s northeastern shoreline, by creating or nourishing nearly 1,000 acres of intermediate marsh. Stabilized marsh will provide valuable habitat for flora and fauna of the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge, while also providing storm surge protection for the Slidell Lacombe area.

“The CWPPRA program has been a vital and steady revenue stream for Louisiana coastal master plan projects,” said CPRA Chairman Johnny Bradberry. “Since 1990 there has never been a year when we didn’t have the CWPPRA program making some kind of investment in our coast.”

In addition to its direct funding assistance for ecosystem restoration projects that build land, marsh and barrier islands, CWPPRA has built the Coast-wide Reference Monitoring System

(CRMS) a network of 392 monitoring sites providing invaluable scientific data. There are multiple stations within each site, for water, vegetation, etc.

“With the network of CRMS sites, we have continuous data for over a decade, that show us how our projects perform individually, and, when put all together, we have a better picture of the cumulative health of our coast,” said Bradberry. “This information has been absolutely critical in the building out of the models underpinning the Master Plan and will continue to evolve as CPRA adds data collection opportunities and a system wide approach to adaptive management that can be a model for the entire Gulf Coast.”

During the event today, other southeast Louisiana CWPPRA projects were highlighted that are now in progress or already accomplished in partnership with CPRA. These include:

- **South Lake Lery Shoreline and Marsh Restoration** in Plaquemines Parish, using dredged sediment to create approximately 551 acres of marsh while also restoring 33,000 feet of the shoreline of Lake Lery just northwest of Delacroix. This \$32.6 million CWPPRA project is another partnership between CPRA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **Hydrologic Restoration and Vegetative Planting in the Des Allemands Swamp** in St. James Parish. The goal is to minimize the loss of both marsh and a declining cypress forest, as well as reduce swamp submergence, increase regrowth of young trees, increase swamp productivity, improve drainage and increase water quality. Project features include spoil bank gapping, breaching of internal impediments, reestablishment of natural channels, and site-specific vegetative plantings. This \$6.2 million CWPPRA project is a partnership of CPRA and the federal EPA.
- **Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, Phase 3**, a project encompassing portions of Lafourche and Jefferson Parishes using rocks to reduce or eliminate shoreline erosion along 21,400 feet of the west bank of Bayou Perot and the north shore of Little Lake, protecting and benefiting approximately 2,380 acres of land. The Barataria Landbridge is a critical land form that retards marine tidal forces which, among other things, threaten the upper Barataria Basin. The \$46.2 million CWPPRA project is a partnership between CPRA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- **Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration Project** in lower Plaquemines Parish built 15,484 linear feet of ridge to contain the create and nourish 484 acres of marsh that would have completely converted to open water by 2050. Sediment to restore the ridge was dredged from Bayou Grand Liard, and sediment to restore the marsh was dredged and pumped to the project location from an offshore borrow site. The project will be planted with marsh grasses and the ridge will be planted with hardwood seedlings. This \$42.5 million CWPPRA project is a partnership between CPRA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

- **Bayou Dupont Marsh and Ridge Creation**, a completed undertaking that was part of a series of land building projects in an area below Belle Chasse and Lafitte that experienced the highest rate of wetland loss in coastal Louisiana from 1978 to 1990. With sediment dredged from the Mississippi River, this project created 390 acres of marsh and more than two miles of ridge that will soon be planted with native trees such as live oak, hackberry and yaupon. This \$38.9 million CWPPRA project in Jefferson Parish was accomplished as a partnership between CPRA and NOAA.
- **Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery - Marsh Creation #3 and Terracing**, the latest in the series of projects along a pipeline corridor extending west from the Mississippi River, it used sediment dredged from the river to create and nourish approximately 144 acres of marsh that had degraded into mostly open water and broken marsh. An additional 9,679 linear feet of terraces were also built to encourage further marsh development. This \$18.1 million CWPPRA project straddling the Jefferson and Plaquemines Parish line was a partnership between CPRA and NOAA.

CWPPRA was created in 1990 under the sponsorship of Louisiana's U.S. Senator John Breaux. It was the first large-scale federal funding program for identifying, preparing and funding construction of Louisiana coastal wetlands restoration projects. CWPPRA project planning activities are 100% federally funded. Once a project is approved, cost sharing is 85% Federal and 15% non-Federal; CPRA provides 15% as the non-federal designated state sponsor.

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Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is the single state entity with authority to develop, articulate, implement, and enforce a comprehensive coastal protection and restoration Master Plan of unified vision to reduce hurricane storm surge flood impact, to restore our bountiful natural resources, to build land to protect our nation's critical energy infrastructure, and to secure Louisiana's coast now and for future generations.