



State of Louisiana  
Coastal Protection and Restoration  
Authority

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 15, 2017

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## **CPRA Exploring All Means of Financing Coastal Protection and Restoration**

**NEW ORLEANS, LA. (March 15, 2017)** – Louisiana’s Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board received updates today on alternative methods that could potentially speed up the funding and implementation of projects identified in the \$50 billion, 50-year Master Plan. The goal is to accomplish an expedited timeline to build projects in the nearer-term future that might otherwise have to wait on traditional funding streams.

Natural Resource Damage Restoration (NRD) Banking is one alternative method discussed today at the CPRA Board meeting in New Orleans. This would allow private entities to finance and carry out restoration projects that are in or consistent with [Louisiana’s Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast](#) (CMP). The private entity could then sell restoration credits to potentially responsible parties to mitigate for environmental damages resulting from certain oil spills. For the investor, there is potential profit from the sale of the restoration credits; for the potentially responsible party in an oil spill, buying the credits in lieu of probable years of pending litigation and liability would be beneficial. As for the state, it’s another method to facilitate getting Master Plan projects implemented.

Megan Terrell, an attorney with the governor’s office, told the board, “This is the first of what we hope will be more innovative financing opportunities to bring private funds to coastal restoration projects.”

The Louisiana Legislature last year authorized CPRA to begin drawing up rules and

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regulations for the concept. CPRA published those rules in January and the public had until March 1 to comment. Terrell told the CPRA Board today that the final rules will be published in May after a final report is presented to the legislature.

“There are strict guidelines and project success milestones the investing private entities must meet, both during construction of the project and for its maintenance for 20 to 25 years into the future,” Terrell said.

CPRA is investigating other processes involving outcome-based performance contracts that could expedite the implementation of Master Plan projects.

“We’re working on drafting legislation that will allow CPRA to add another project delivery model to our coastal implementation toolbox,” said CPRA attorney Richelle Moore. “It would be a turn-key approach, allowing us to contract with private companies that would be responsible for everything from planning to landrights, engineering and design, permitting and construction. CPRA would have oversight to assure compliance, and contractors would only be paid when certain milestones are satisfactorily achieved. It’s been done in other areas of the country on a much smaller scale, but we want to see if it is feasible to scale it up to the larger projects that will do the most good for Louisiana’s coast.”

“This is right in line with Gov. John Bel Edwards’ directive to explore all means of speeding up implementation of Louisiana’s Coastal Master Plan,” said CPRA Chairman Johnny Bradberry. “There is an urgency here. We still have a window of opportunity to make a difference, but that window won’t stay open forever. So we want to condense that 50-year timeline as much as possible. We must continue to be innovative in implementing Master Plan projects sooner rather than later.”

Other topics covered during the meeting included: [\(Click here for presentations\)](#)

- A high-level U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) overview of projects in the New Orleans District by Col. Michael Clancy, which included an announcement of a new



USACE initiative “O&M 2020” which takes a forward look to address issues surrounding operations and maintenance (O & M) of projects.

- Updates of levee authorities from: Robert Turner with the Southeast La. Flood Protection Authority-East; John Monzon with the Southeast La. Flood Protection Authority-West; and Monica Gorman with the Pontchartrain Levee District.
- CPRA Executive Director Michael Ellis presented an overview of CPRA, the planning and implementation agency of Master Plan projects, [which included information on the ramping up of the agency’s project](#) scope and scale through year 2020.
- Bren Haase, CPRA head of planning [and research](#), provided an update on the Master Plan process. Official public comment period concludes March 26; Final plan to be presented to the CPRA Board on April 19 and to the Legislature April 25.
- A Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment update and the potential for NRD-funded recreational use projects along the Elmer’s Island Wildlife Refuge managed by the La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). Presentation by Alyson Graugnard, CPRA NRDA Attorney, and Craig Gothreaux with LDWF. For more information about Elmer’s Island, [see web page here](#).
- An update by CPRA’s Brad Barth on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion RFP issued in October 2016 and received in November for a third-party contractor Environmental Impact Statement. [Other relevant dates reported include:](#) 408 Notice of Intent dated January 13, and EIS notice to proceed (NTP) issued February, 2017. Barth presented the evaluation criteria for procurement of engineering services and stated June 30 as the tentative date for selection of a design team, with a target Notice to Proceed of August 25, 2017. Also announced, CPRA is currently assembling Announcement of the assembly of a Construction Management At Risk (CMAR) Selection Committee members, and an anticipated advertisement is slated Summer, 2017.

For more information on CPRA work and key initiatives, visit the CPRA website at [www.coastal.la.gov](http://www.coastal.la.gov).

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*CPRA was established as the single, centralized, State of Louisiana Authority, to consolidate state, parish and federal personnel and resources to create, coordinate and implement a Coastal Master Plan of unified vision for remediation, restoration and protection, to reduce hurricane storm surge flood impact, to restore our bountiful natural resources, to protect our nation's critical energy infrastructure, and to secure Louisiana's coast now and for future generations.*