



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2022
State Capitol Building- 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA
Committee Room 5
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, Present, Executive Assistant, Coastal Activities
Keith Lovell, Present, DNR
Pat Landry, Present, DOTD
Randy Myers, Present, LDWF
Sec. Brown/Scott Wilkinson, Absent, DEQ
Pat Witty, Absent, LED
Joey Breaux, Present, LDAF
Barbara Goodson, Present, DOA
Billy Broussard, Absent, LDI
Casey Tingle, Absent, GOHSEP
Nick Cali for Scott Burke, Present, Barataria Basin
Monica Gorman, Present, Pontchartrain Basin
Bill Bubrig, Absent, Mississippi Delta Basin
Dwayne Bourgeois, Present, Terrebonne Basin
Bill Hidalgo, Present, Atchafalaya Basin
Laurie Cormier, Present, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin
Rep. Zeringue, Absent, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House
Sen. Hensgens, Present, Ex-officio, Designee of the President of the Senate
Michael Ince, Present, Designee for the Lieutenant Governor
President McInnis, Present, Breton Sound Basin

III. Approval to adjust Agenda

Motion by Ms. Gorman
Second by Ms. Goodson
Unanimously Approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Lovell
Second by Ms. Cormier
Unanimously Approved

V. Old Business/Announcements

VI. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act— Neal McMillin, GOCA (*video: 2:14:28*) Mr. McMillin gave the Board Members an overview of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for the Coastal Program. The bill is \$1.2 Trillion and \$550 Billion in the new spending above baseline levels. The bill was passed by



the Senate 69-30, passed the House 228-206, and signed by President Biden. The IIJA bill is a five year bill covering FY 2022-FY 2026. Mr. McMillin shared with the Board that while much of the funding related to transportation and climate purposes area allocated by formula to states, most of the funding opportunities relevant to the coastal program are discretionary. This means that funding for agencies will either make their decisions through work/spend plans or through grant competitions. As such, Louisiana will need to compete for these funds by proposing worthy projects and sharing priorities. Mr. McMillin took the board through the Topline Numbers to Key Agencies: \$17.1 billion to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Funding intended to address backlog of authorized Corps projects to achieve its mission on flood protection, navigation, and ecosystem restoration. \$6.8 billion to FEMA (Funding intended to reduce vulnerability to flooding); \$2.96 billion to NOAA (Funding intended to protect coastal communities from flooding, buffer shorelines from erosion, reduce coastal hazards, and restore ecosystems); \$2.13 billion for Ecosystem Restoration (split between Dept of Interior and U.S. Forest Service); \$1.8 billion to EPA for protecting regional waters (Funding intended to improve water quality for nationally important systems). In closing, he spoke on Codifies 'One Federal Decision': makes permanent the federal permitting improvements steering council (FPISC).

VII. Implementation Update – Greg Grandy, CPRA (Video 0:23:05)

Mr. Grandy gave the Board members an update on the CPRA Implementation, there are currently 95 active projects (33 in construction, 54 in Engineering & Design and 8 in the planning phase). The Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project with 27 acres of marsh will be created (largest that CPRA will have constructed to date).

VIII. CPRA Draft Annual Plan – Greg Grandy, CPRA (video 0:56:21)

- Mr. Grandy briefed the board members on the Draft Annual Plan, In the upcoming FY 2023 Annual Plan, we anticipate \$1.3 billion in revenues coming to the state for protection and restoration projects on our coast.
- In earlier days the bulk of our expenditures were on research, planning, engineering and design of projects outlined in the Coastal Master Plan.
- All of that hard, difficult work of planning, engineering and design has led us to where we are now building and achieving the projects.

This year, a record 81% of our revenues are going directly to constructing projects.

IX. Restore State Plan Amendment – Chris Barnes, CPRA (video 0:0:)

- Mr. Couvillion updated the board on the Impacts of Hurricanes on Coastal Wetlands. He shared maps that indicated that hurricanes can have both erosional and depositional effects on coastal wetlands (only to changes observed in area, not elevation). Preliminary Hurricane Ida Wetland are change analysis with possible wetland loss 275sq kilometers loss (numbers subject to change).
- Ms. Sharp briefed the board on the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) sites. There are 389 monitoring sites across coastal Louisiana funded by CWPRRA and NRDA. So far, the highest Ida peak observed at CRMS sites was 11.4' at CRMS0125. Many of the hydro stations in the impacted area were lost or damaged. CRMS next steps are hydrology stations repaired as they are



discovered during the damage assessment phase. Storm data are being QA/QC'd and loaded into the publically available database (CIMS and CRMS).

X. Mid-Basin Sediment Diversion Program Update – Bren Haase and Brad Barth, CPRA (video: 02:13:00)

- Mr. Barth and Mr. Haase updated the board that Mid-Barataria has hit the 60% design milestone and the final EIS is expected summer of 2022. The outreach and engagement had 72 meetings & briefings with 19 being held in Plaquemines Parish, 9 community open houses and 6 virtual public meetings & webinars. The results of those meetings resulted with over 50, 000 comments showing that Coastal Louisianans overwhelmingly support coastal restoration. The Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion is at 30% project design milestone with the draft EIS statement expected the summer of 2023 and the final EIS statement expected the fall of 2024.

XI. 2023 Coastal Master Plan Update – Stu Brown, CPRA (video 02:36:29)

- Mr. Brown presented to the board the 2023 Coastal Master Plan update and what the future without action risk projections are; project and alternative (future with action) modeling and future landscape projections.

XII. Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement Task Force Recommendation – Brian Lezina, CPRA (video: 3:07:22)

- Mr. Lezina presented to the board the findings and recommendations on behalf of the Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement Task Force.

XIII. Public Comment

XIV. Adjourn

Motion by Ms. Gorman
Second by Ms. Cormier
Unanimously Approved