



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

State Capitol-House Committee Room 5

1051 N. Third Street, 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

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|--|---------|
| Chairman Kline, Executive Assistant, Coastal Activities | Present |
| Keith Lovell, DNR | Present |
| Pat Landry, DOTD | Present |
| Patrick Banks, LDWF | Present |
| Denise Bennett for Sec. Brown, DEQ | Present |
| Pat Witty, LED | Present |
| Jeremy Rodriguez for Joey Breaux, LDAF | Present |
| Barbara Goodson, DOA | Present |
| Billy Broussard, LDI | Absent |
| Christina Dayries for Casey Tingle, GOHSEP | Present |
| Karen Gautreaux, Gov's Advisory Comm-Chair | Present |
| Scott Burke, Barataria Basin | Present |
| Monica Gorman, Pontchartrain Basin | Absent |
| Bill Bubriq, Plaquemine Parish Coastal Zone/ Mississippi Delta Basin | Absent |
| Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin | Present |
| Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin | Present |
| Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin | Present |
| Stephen Sagrera, Teche/Vermillion Parish | 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 |
| Michael Ince, Designee for the Lieutenant Governor | Present |
| President McInnis, Breton Sound Basin | Present |

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

V. Old Business/Announcements



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- VI. **CPRA Implementation Update— Bren Haase, CPRA (video 0:05:42)** Mr. Haase presented to the board that there are 100 active projects; 35 of them are in construction, 57 are in E&D, with 8 more in the planning stage. Of the projects now being constructed, 13 are hurricane protection projects and 11 are creating marsh. Marsh creation leads the way in E&D with 32 projects moving toward the construction phase. Dredging on the **West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization** project is complete. The island is located in Jefferson Parish immediately northeast of Grand Isle at the mouth of Barataria Bay extending 4 miles from Barataria Pass to Pass Abel. The primary objective of the project is to increase island longevity and address shoreline erosion, decreased storm surge protection, and subsidence of the back barrier marshes. The design phase of this project was funded with RESTORE act funds and the construction phase was funded by the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group with Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) funds. Nearly 4 million cubic yards of material were used to restore approximately 251 acres of beach and dune and 147 acres of back-barrier marsh. Additionally, rock breakwaters were constructed to support land building and increase protection from wave impacts and storm surge. The project created 180 jobs, not including government workers. In addition, construction on the **Elliot Jones Pump Station** in Terrebonne Parish is progressing. It's located within Elliot Jones Canal along the Western Tie-In Alignment of the Morganza to the Gulf HDRRS near Gibson, LA. The project involves constructing a pump station to provide additional pumping capacity out of the Chacahoula-Gibson Basin to reduce the risk of flooding in areas on the south side of the basin and on the northern bank of Bayou Black. The \$12 million project is funded by GOMESA. Mr. Haase also provided a brief overview on the completion of the Bayou Chene Flood Protection Structure. The structure will protect 30,000 residents across six parishes – St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Martin, Assumption, and Iberville parishes. The region had previously relied on temporary measures to prevent backwater flooding and the completion of the Bayou Chene Floodgate marks the addition of a permanent flood control structure for those six parishes. The \$80 million floodgate is an investment from CPRA using funding from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) and was built in partnership with the St. Mary Levee District. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and NOAA announced another round of funding for Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund (ECRF) projects. Louisiana received \$15.4 million toward three projects: Bayou Grand Cheniere Marsh Creation; Restoration of Dularge Marsh and Living Shoreline Installation on Lake Chiene.
- VII. **2022 Hurricane Season Forecast – Ben Schott, National Weather Service (unavailable to present due to illness)**
- VIII. **USACE Hurricane Preparedness Update – Heath Jones, USACE (video 00:17:34)** Mr. Heath provide the board with an update on the New Orleans District Hurricane Preparation. During Hurricane events, they will be trying to incorporate work more into their plans by having approximately 25-30 people stationed at the district and about 25 people located in Jackson. The USACE has local government liaisons in various parishes as well as GOHSEP and levee districts, to insure that they have the latest information going back and forth between areas. In regards to collaboration, the power of partnership has really been highlighted, especially during the past couple of storms. Mr. Jones also indicated that they will be using inundation maps again this hurricane season (very similar to the ones they've done in the past) which are publicly available, and are produced for areas that are not covered by CPRA or where more details are needed for operations. Mr.



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Jones also provided other key points during his presentation: GIWW wasn't reopened until after Halloween after Hurricane Ida (3rd busiest waterway in the nation) which caused major impacts to supply chains and navigation partners. In regards to unwatering mission (\$8.5M) during Ida, they are trying to pre-plan with the Navy and find out where their assets are and make things better for the hurricane season. Mr. Jones stated that had they not invested in the \$14B post Katrina in the HSDRRS there would have been massive overtopping in some areas. The HSDDRRS turnover ceremony occurred a few weeks ago and the maintenance and operations of that system have been turned over to the local levee districts with the USACE supporting it.

IX. GOHSEP Hurricane Preparedness Update – *Christina Dayries, GOHSEP* (video: 0:41:56)

Ms. Dayries update the board on the following: Looking back on Past Hurricane Seasons (2020-2021) exhausted the list of 21 storm names. It was the 8th consecutive year with a storm forming prior to June 1, and the 7th consecutive year of predictions above normal season. 46 of 64 parishes are still in recovery. Ms. GOHEP'S Preparedness for 2022 Season: Supported Statewide Exercise and Rehearsal of Drill; Supported Hurricane Preparedness Meetings with local parishes, churches, civic and safety group; Provided COOP for Small Business to support essential workforce, essential functions and jump start recovery; Supported a variety of Preparedness Events, i.e. Red Stick Ready Day, AmeriCares Hispanic Mothers Drive Through Baby Shower, CERT Trainings, etc.; Provided outreach materials and preparedness messaging to stakeholders and communities; Provided ongoing training to strengthen capabilities at the state and local level; Regular engagement meetings with disabilities advocates.; Advocate the delivery of Public Housing Authority Disaster Readiness Training to support vulnerable populations as well as maintain. Ms. Dayries closed her presentation with information for the public announcing that effective July 1, 2022, Louisiana Rave Alert/AT&T Resident Mass Communication Solution would be up and running and the GOHSEP Get a Game Plan is live at www.getagameplan.org.

X. NERR Update – *Seth Blitch, The Nature Conservancy* (video 01:02:21)

Mr. Blitch provided an overview of the selection process of the LANe'er and announced the winner as the Atchafalaya site. The Atchafalaya NERR will include the Atchafalaya River Basin floodplain, the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake deltaic floodplains, and the adjacent estuaries of Atchafalaya, Vermillion and East and West Cote Blanche bays.

XI. Legislative Session Update – *Olivia Ledet, Governor's Office* (video 01:14:54)

Ms. Ledet provided a brief overview of the CPRA Legislation during the 2022 Legislative Session. HCR by Rep. Bourriague (the FY 23 Annual Plan for CPRA—passed the legislature unanimously which was a record breaking 1.3 billion dollar plan that allows us to do our work. Other cornerstone passages to the CPRA program are: SB 91 by Sen. Hengens (legislation to re-create CPRA—has been signed by the Governor; becomes Act 270) and HB 157 by Rep. Bourriague (tax sale title bill). SB 465 by Sen. Connick – the SLPFA nominating committee custodian of record legislation – has been signed by the Governor; becomes Act 169. Ms. Ledet also updated that we weren't able to get the full \$150M as we originally hoped, however, we were fortunate enough to receive \$120M that will fund projects across the coast. HB 636 by Rep. Orgeron (the offshore alternative energy constitutional amendment) and HB 687 by Rep. Orgeron (the companion and statutory dedication bill) did not make it through the legislative process due to Chairman White who



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ultimately objected to the idea of protecting an unknown sum of revenue for coastal protection and restoration. Ms. Ledet concluding her update by listing the remaining legislation that have been sent to the Governor for signature (HB 165 and HB 97).

- XII. IJA and Congressional Update – Neal McMillin, Governor’s Office** (video: 1:31:00) Mr. McMillin provided the board with an update on the Congressional visit that took place on June 6th – 9th, (**GOMESA Revenue Sharing Coalition DC Fly**). The Fly-in supported legislation to increase revenue sharing from offshore energy development with affected states through increasing GOMESA payments and setting up a system for offshore wind. 65 participants conducted 41 in-person Congressional meetings. An additional 11 virtual meetings are being scheduled. Participants were from LA, TX, MS, and AL. Mr. McMillin also provided an update on the following topics: **WRDA of 2022** (WRDA 2022 (HR 7776) passed the House of Representatives on June 9th with a 384 to 37 vote. Louisiana’s delegation voted Yes). **\$122 million for Grand Isle** (USACE, in partnership with CPRA, will undertake \$122 million in work to address Hurricane-Ida related damage to the Grand Isle Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction Project). **NFWF Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund Awards** (Louisiana received 3 projects totaling \$15.4 million, approximately 61% of the distributed funds. CPRA received \$5 million for the Bayou Grand Cheniere Marsh Creation Project). **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Rural Playbook** (Rural Playbook aims to help rural communities understand available funding from IJA); Biden-Harris Permitting Action Plan (Released on May 11th, the action plan is largely led by the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (known as FPISC or the Permitting Council). The plan is focused on clean energy and infrastructure); **America the Beautiful Challenge RFP** (\$85 million is available for this year. Proposals are due July 21, 2022). In conclusion, he gave an overview of **the ASACW Visit Louisiana from April 20 – 21** (Governor Edwards and CPRA leadership discussed key Louisiana coastal priorities with Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Michael Connor, Major General William “Butch” Graham, and Colonel Stephen Murphy).
- XIII. Update on Hypoxia Funding in IJA – Jackson Martinez, Governor’s Office** (video: 1:52:06) Mr. Martinez briefed the board on the Hypoxia Funding available in IJA. **Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico:** (Large area of low oxygen driven by excess nutrient pollution in Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin (MARB)). **Mississippi River/GOM Hypoxia Task Force:** (Formed in 1997 and led by EPA - partnership of five federal agencies, 12 states, tribes, and two sub-basin committees. Coastal goal: By 2035, reduce the five-year running average areal extent of the hypoxic zone to less than 5,000 square kilometers. Interim goal: By 2025, achieve a 20% reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus loading to the Gulf); **Goal Progress** (By 2035: reduce the five-year running average areal extent of the hypoxic zone to less than 5,000 square kilometers). **IJA Hypoxia Funding** (Appropriated \$60 million to improve water quality in the MARB and Gulf of Mexico to implement the Hypoxia Action Plan).
- XIV. Public Comment**
- XV. Adjourn**
- Motion by Mr. Lovell
Second by Ms. Gautreaux
Unanimously Approved