



Q4 Newsletter: January 2026

Atchafalaya Master Plan Development

As 2025 comes to a close and we enter the New Year, the Atchafalaya Master Plan development process has completed its first calendar year, marking significant progress in 2025. The plan development team (PDT) has engaged with interested parties and the public throughout the year to better understand the current state of the Atchafalaya River System and discuss its future management. This year, the PDT wrapped up the project identification phase and moved into the crucial project evaluation phase.

After refining the objectives for each Watershed Planning Unit (WPU), the PDT is able to use modeling results to assess how well individual projects advance the plan's overall objectives.

2025 Activities

- Completed the project solicitation process
- Identified and refined the full candidate project list
- Refined the decision framework including consideration of future sea-level rise
- Updated and refined sub-objectives for each WPU
- Established metrics and performance targets for project evaluation
- Initiated modeling efforts

Current Activities

Project Development

In October, the project team visited the Krotz Springs WPU to take a firsthand look at several areas north of Henderson Lake. They stopped at the Dixie Pipeline Canal, the Powerline Right-of-Way, and Grimmatt Canal, then continued along Bayou Fordoche and Bayou Courtableau to better understand how water moves through the area during both high and low river stages. These observations are helping the team identify where improvements could make the most difference.

The team is evaluating several types of projects that could improve water flow into Henderson Lake and support healthier conditions across the system. One approach, called Channel Floodplain Exchange (CFE), has already shown promise along the Dixie Pipeline Canal. The team is considering expanding this method in that area, exploring its potential use along the Powerline Right-of-Way and identifying new opportunities near Grimmatt Canal.

*While this is one field trip, energy and resources are also being dedicated to other areas of the basin.



Modeling

Modeling is now underway to evaluate over 50 projects, using the refined objectives for each WPU to evaluate how these candidate projects perform under future conditions.

Candidate Projects



INTEGRATED
PROJECTS

19



DREDGING &
PLACEMENT

12



SEDIMENT
TRAPPING

10



FRESHWATER
DIVERSION

1



HYDROLOGIC
RESTORATION

8



SEDIMENT
DIVERSION

1

Engagement

In November, CPRA's Wes LeBlanc presented an Atchafalaya Master Plan update to the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) Management Conference to provide important context for this planning effort.



Upcoming Activities

The PDT will continue the modeling efforts and ongoing coordination with the 2029 Coastal Master Plan. In 2026, model outputs will be shared with key interest groups, including the plan's Steering Committee, Working Group, and Collaborative Engagement Group, and to discuss how well candidate projects meet the plan's objectives.

The PDT will continue engaging with legislators, the public, and its designated key interest groups to identify projects that best meet the objectives of the Atchafalaya Master Plan.

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