Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 9:30 AM CST
Louisiana State Capitol
900 North Third Street, Committee Room 1
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Chairman Gordon Dove, GOCA	Present
Mr. Charles Reulet for Sec. Dustin Davidson, DOCE	Present
Sec. Tyler Bosworth, LDWF	Present
Mr. Jerry Lang for Sec. Burdette, DEQ	Present
Mr. Brandon Burris for Billy Nungesser, Lt. Gov Office	**Absent**
Mr. Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm	**Absent**
Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin	Present
Mr. Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin	Present
Mr. Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion	**Absent**
Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin	Present
Mr. Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin	**Absent**
Mr. Robert Jordan Teche/Vermillion Parish	**Absent**
Mr. John Lane, Breton Sound Basin	Present
Mr. David Richard, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin	**Present**
Mr. Stephen Sagrera, At Large	**Absent**
Pres. Keith Hinkley, At Large	Present
Mr. Craig Romero, At Large	Present
Rep. Zeringue, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House	Present
Sen. Hensgens, Ex-officio, Designee of the President of the Senate	Present

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois to amend the agenda and add Executive Session as Item # XI
2nd by: Pres. Hinkley
Voice vote to add agenda item XI (roll call on file)

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois
2nd by: Pres. Jewell

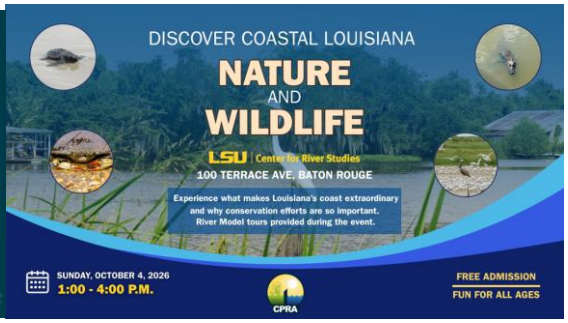
V. Old Business/Announcements

VI. CPRA Implementation Update – *Michael Hare, CPRA Executive Director (video:0:07:00)*

Mr. Hare provided Chairman Dove and the board with updates on ongoing coastal projects: (107 active projects) 33 projects in construction, 73 in

engineering and design and 1 project in planning. Mr. Hare also highlighted a few projects that have had significant activity since last month: **Grand Isle Shoreline** (Jefferson) mobilized on 08/17 and started construction of the breakwaters; **UBBRR-Des Allemands Floodgate** (Lafourche)Opening was held 08/05/26. Sea level was the lowest bidder at $578K (the EE was approx. $875K); West Belle Headland Repair (Lafourche) - Notice to Proceed issued/acknowledged 08/03/26. Mr. Hare also stated a few projects that are currently advertising: State Wildlife Refuge Terracing & Shoreline Protection- Advertisement-09/2/26 and bid opening 10/14/26; Humble Canal Hydrologic Restoration Project: Advertisement 08/27/26 and bid opening on 10/6/26. He also announced a few additional updates: Queen Bess Island Restoration Project wins 2026 Best Restored Shore Award; Grand Isle Breakwaters Groundbreaking with USACE announcement of Starbase LA with SpaceX.; Todd Baker named CRCL Coastal Stewardship Award Recipient. Mr. Hare also updated the board on the East Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing Project stating construction is underway which includes approximately 15,000 linear feet of terraces and 4,260 linear feet of sediment retention terrace to reduce wave action and storm surge impacts. In closing, Mr. Hare invited the board members and public to join CPRA at the LSU Center for River Studies to Discover Coastal Louisiana Nature and Wildlife on October 4, 2026, from 1-4pm. The event is free and will connect local organizations with the community to highlight Louisiana's coastal ecosystems, wildlife, and conservation efforts. Also, next month, CRCL will host the Southwest Louisiana Coastal Summit, a one-day event focused on the communities, environment, and economy of southwest Louisiana and their connection to coastal restoration and protection. The agenda includes plenary sessions, panel discussions, and concurrent presentations addressing key coastal issues and challenges. CPRA will have a strong presence, with staff serving as presenters, moderators, and session participants throughout the summit.

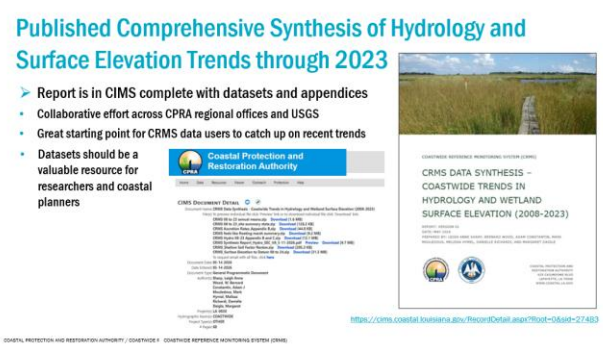


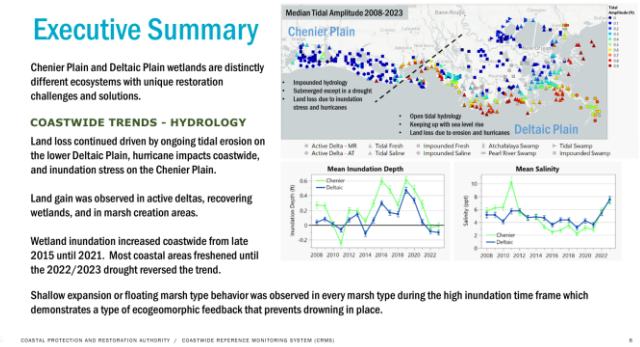




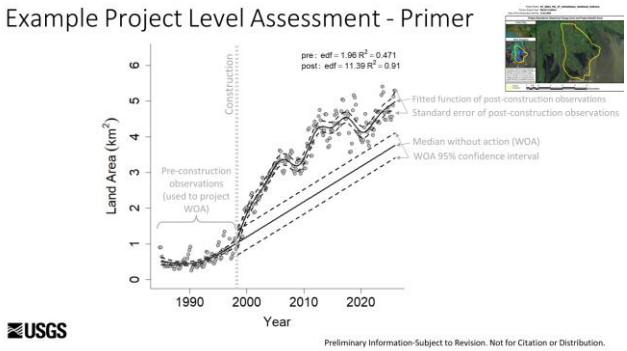
VII. Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS) Synthesis - Coastwide Trends in Hydrology and Wetlands Surface Elevation (2008-2023) – *Leigh Anne Sharp, CPRA (**video:0:22:51**)* Ms. Sharp provided a brief update to the board on the CRIMS program which is a network of 390 monitoring sites continuously measuring processes associated with coastal land loss including water level, inundation, salinity, accretion, and changes in vegetation, elevation and amount of land since 2006. She highlighted that they just published the comprehensive synthesis of hydrology and surface elevation trends through 2023 (with appendices) which can be reviewed in SIMS, it was a collaborative effort across the offices with USGS as well. She also stated that she is particularly proud of Appendix C which was primarily written by other scientists from CPRA regional offices.

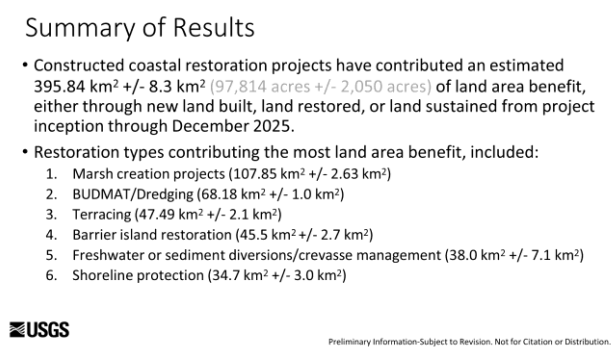
The datasets should be a valuable resource for researchers and coastal planners. Ms. Sharp also highlighted a few other important topics such as CRMS Sites Mirror Gulf Sea Level Trends, and a brief description of Chenier Plain and Deltaic Plain wetlands and how they are distinctly different ecosystems with unique restoration challenges and solutions.





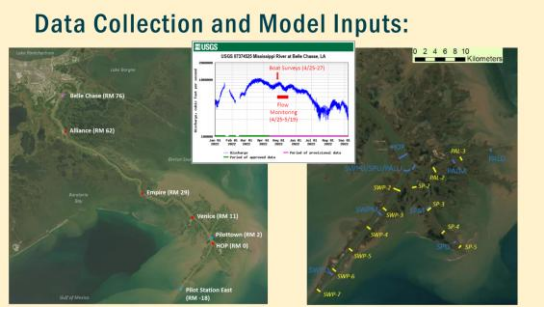
VIII. Assessing the Land Building and Sustaining Efficacy of Coastal Restoration Projects in Coastal Louisiana – *Brady Couvillion, USGS* ***(video:0:55:24)*** Mr. Couvillion updated the board on the research they've conducted as part of the LA TIG effort where they're assessing the land area benefit of all constructed coastal restoration projects. Mr. Couvillion stated the objective is improved area change, monitoring and assessment of restoration impacts. The USGS approach is assessing the land area sustained by restoration projects hinges on a comparison to the counterfactual state of "what would have been present if the project had not been built"; a WOA condition. He highlighted that their approach to WOA projection, while effective at capturing temporal uncertainty, does require the assumption that the full regime of temporal dynamics is captured in the pre-construction record. In other words, it assumes that the periodicity and magnitude of future disturbances are captured in the recorded dynamics. Mr. Couvillion also presented discussion matters: approach to WOA projection, while effective at capturing temporal uncertainty, does require the assumption that the full regime of temporal dynamics is captured in the pre-construction record. In other words, it assumes that the periodicity and magnitude of future disturbances are captured in the recorded dynamics. In closing, he stated while it is unlikely that restoration efforts alone will completely stop the ongoing coastal land loss crisis in Louisiana, our findings indicate that the coastal restoration efforts assessed here have contributed to substantially reducing losses which would have occurred if no action had been taken.

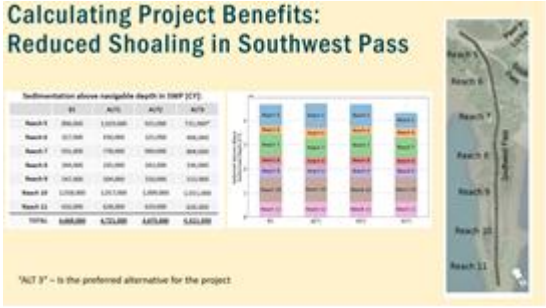




IX. Bird Foot Delta Hydrologic Restoration Project Update (MR-173) – *Todd Baker, CPRA & Sean Duffy, Big River Coalition* ***(video:01:19:55)*** Mr. Baker updated the board on the latest with the Bird foot Delta. This project is located at the mouth of the Mississippi River and is designed restore wetlands and coastal habitats impacted by DWH oil spill. He indicated that portions of the delta experienced heavy oiling following the disaster. This project will restore the hydrology of the MS River Bird's Foot

Delta by dredging Passa Loutre, South Pass, and SE Pass to reconnect the MS River with the marshes of the easter central Bird's Foot Delta.





X. Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan: Presentation and Approval of Proposed CPRA Board Resolution Supporting the Gulf of America Hypoxia Action Plan – *Doug Daigle, LA Hypoxia Working Group (**video:1:44:20**)*

1. Board Discussion
2. Public Comment
3. Board Action to Approve Supporting the Gulf of America Hypoxia Action Plan Resolution

Motioned to adopt by: Mr. Bourgeois
2nd by: Pres. Jewell
(Roll call vote on file)

XI. Executive Session

XII. Public Comment

XIII. Adjourn

Motioned by: Mr. Lane
2nd: Pres. Jewell/Unanimous

Please contact Enger Kinchen, 225-342-7669, enger.kinchen@la.gov at least 24-hours prior to the meeting to request accommodations for ADA-qualifying disabilities.