# Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

**Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority Board Meeting**
**Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 1:00 PM CST**
**SOWELA Regional Training Center Auditorium**
**3820 Senator J. Bennet Johnston Avenue**
**Lake Charles, Louisiana 70615**

***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.***
***https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42-tODj62EI***

## I. Call to Order

## II. Welcome – Dr. Neil Aspinwall, Chancellor--SOWELA Technical Community College

## III. Roll Call

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|---|---|
| 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 |
| Lt. Gov Billy Nungesser, Lt. Gov Office | Present |
| Mr. Tony Alford, Gov's Advisory Comm | Present |
| Pres. Matthew Jewell, Barataria Basin | Present |
| **Mr. Joseph Cao, Pontchartrain Basin** | **Absent** |
| Mr. Chad Courville Teche/Vermillion | Present |
| Mr. Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Basin | Present |
| **Mr. Bill Hidalgo, Atchafalaya Basin** | **Absent** |
| Mr. Robert Jordan Teche/Vermillion Parish | Present |
| Mr. John Lane, Breton Sound Basin | Present |
| Mr. David Richard, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin | Present |
| Mr. Stephen Sagrera, At Large | Present |
| Pres. Keith Hinkley, At Large | Present |
| **Mr. Craig Romero, At Large** | **Absent** |
| **Rep. Zeringue, Ex-officio, Designee of the Speaker of the House** | **Absent** |
| Sen. Hensgens, Ex-officio, Designee of the President of the Senate | Present |

## IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion by: Mr. Bourgeois
2nd by: Mr.Lane

## V. Approval of Minutes

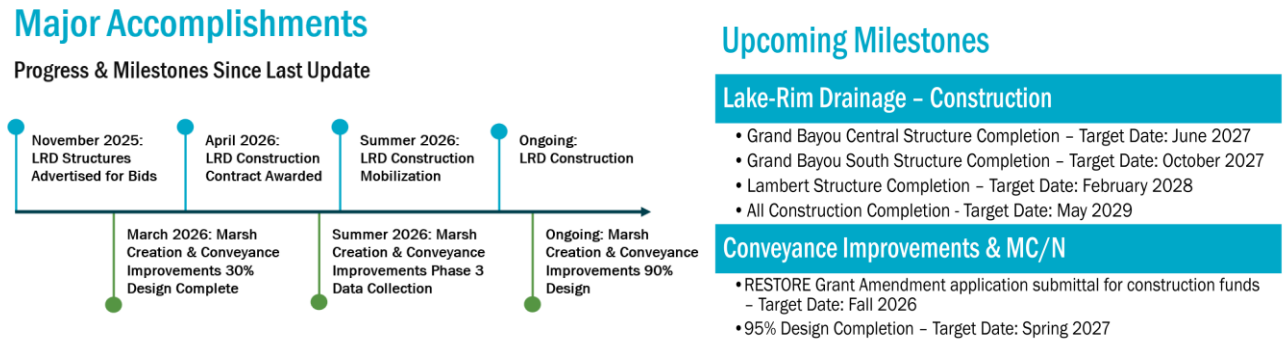
Motion by: Mr.Lane
2nd by: Mr. Alford

## VI. Old Business/Announcements

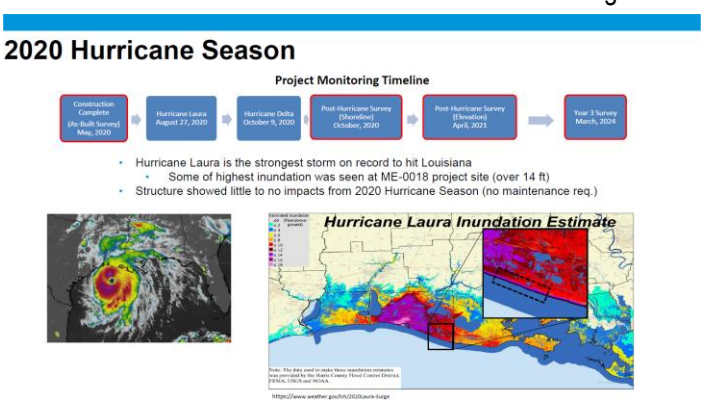
**VII. CPRA Implementation Update** – Michael Hare, CPRA (***video:0:08:35)***

Mr. Hare provided the board with updates on ongoing coastal projects: (108 active projects) 34 projects in construction, 73 in engineering and design and 1 project in planning. He highlighted a few projects with significant activity since the previous board meeting (MTG Reach 3B - Lockport to Larose (BA-0263) (Lafourche) - Substantial Completion inspection held on 09/03/26; Grand Isle Shoreline (BA-0277) (Jefferson) - The contractor (TKTMJ, Inc.) has been awarded the contract. Construction is underway; Eden Isle Flood Risk Reduction & Coastal Resilience (St. Tammany) - Public comment period begins on Sept. 30 and will last until Nov.30; West Belle Headland Repair (Lafourche) - Mobilization occurred 09/04/2026). Mr. Hare also provided status updates on bids: State Wildlife Refuge Terracing & Shoreline Protection (Bids open on Oct 14th; Cameron Creole (Bids opened Sept 29th); Sabine Marsh Creation (awarded on Sept 29th). He also furnished details on the following: **Grand Isle Shoreline Breakwaters**- construction has begun, USACE is placing rocks for the first of 31 new breakwaters, the project is aimed at reducing wave erosion and protecting against storm surge with construction expected to be completed by July 2027. **Cameron Parish Gulf Shoreline Stabilization Project**- The project adds a second line of breakwaters along Little Florida and Constance beaches and will help reduce erosion and strengthen coastal resilience. He also updated on Cameron Parish Coastal Settlement Funded Projects**- GIWW Shoreline Stabilization and Alkali Ditch Hydrologic Restoration** (CPRA is reviewing HDR's proposal for engineering and design (E&D); A weir will be constructed in Alkali Ditch to limit tidal exchange between the GIWW and Black Lake marshes); **Kelso Bayou Hydrologic Restoration and Marsh Creation-** CPRA has initiated an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Cameron Parish to begin engineering and design. The project includes approximately 2.1 miles of Kelso Bayou, 3 miles of fortified channel improvements, 251 acres of marsh creation, and 3,100 feet of shoreline protection. In his brief update on **Southwest Coastal - Rockefeller Refuge Shoreline Protection,** Mr. Hare stated the project is being delivered through a UASCE Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) Design-Build Contract, showing completion in Fall 2027. In closing, Mr. Hare highlighted a few additional updates: **2026 Coastal Science Assistantship Program (CSAP) Recipients:** CPRA funds up to four new master's assistantships annually, providing up to $30,000 per student per year for three years ($90,000 maximum). Students must complete a master's thesis, a 240-hour CPRA internship, and present research findings to CPRA. **2029 Coastal Master Plan Second Solicitation-** The second public solicitation for the 2029 Coastal Master Plan (MP29) will be open from October 30, 2026, through January 31, 2027. **CPRA's 4th Annual Community Coastal Day-** November 8, 2026; 1:00pm-4:00pm, LSU Center for River Studies-Baton Rouge, LA. **Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plan Public Meetings-** CPRA will hold public hearings on the FY 2028 Draft Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plan. **Coastal Connect: Business Matchmaking & Networking Expo on November 19 at the Coastal Center at Nicholls-** Thursday, November 19, 2026-9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Nicholls Coastal Center, 426 NSU Ardoyne Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301. The next CPRA Board Meeting will be on November 18 at 9:30 at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

**VIII. Calcasieu-Sabine Large Scale Marsh and Hydrologic Restoration Project Overview and Program Update** – Jessica Diez, CPRA (***video:0:29:50)*** Ms. Diez provided the board with a brief project overview and background. She indicated that the goal of this project is to reduce the rate of land loss in Calcasieu Sabine Basin with the objective being to reduce marsh stress from flood inundation through improved drainage and dredged sediment input. She stated that the funding source for this project is RESTORE Act Direct Component (Bucket 1). Full $260.97M Bucket 1 allocation for Louisiana dedicated to this project. Ms. Diez highlighted that his project will feature Lake Rim Drainage (Seven (7) proposed gravity drainage structures with backflow prevention; Conveyance (Improve drainage from back of the marsh to the Lake Rim, up to 18miles of channel improvements); and Marsh Creation (Over 1,500-7,000 proposed acres to be built through CS-87 using dredged material from channel improvements). On a final note, Ms. Diez shared major accomplishments and the next steps: See slides below:

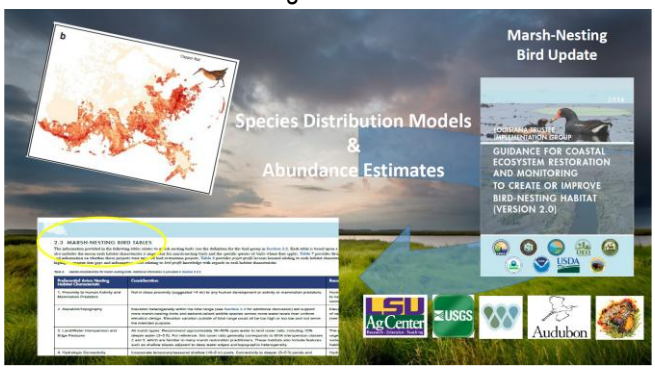



**IX. Lessons Learned from Gulf Shoreline Stabilization in the Chenier Plain** – Adam Constantin, CPRA (***video:0:59:30)*** Mr. Constatine shared some observations they've made on localized conditions on the Chenier Plain coastline and some additional light on immense value these projects add to a highly vulnerable and consequential landscape. He stated that the project he would focus on in this presentation Is the Rockefeller Shoreline Stabilization Project, which covers almost four miles of shoreline along the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish. The goals of the project are to prevent beach erosion under conditions of a Cat1 Hurricane. He stated that the hurricane project goals were tested very shortly after construction was completed in May 2020. Structure showed little to no impacts from 2020 Hurricane Season (no maintenance required). Mr. Constantin indicated that they took the land acreage and plugged it in with 80k/acre, and then took the soil volume benefit and plugged it in with $18 cubic yd. He stated that the way he views it is that we have an annual return on investment from anywhere between $2.5 to $6.8 million a year (again this is not exhaustive economic research). In conclusion, the overall project has been successful. They have stabilized shoreline and built new land in the region experiencing the second worst erosion across the entire Louisiana Gulf Coast and through some of the strongest hurricanes ever recorded in Louisiana.






X. **Rabbit Island Adaptive Management and Performance Monitoring** - Jon Wiebe, LDWF (***video:1:20:26)*** Mr. Weibe opened his presentation with targeted investments: Generating real world guidance (for ecosystem project restoration teams; Creating, restore and manage (habitats that directly benefit coastal nesting birds); Develop (comprehensive, and repeatable monitoring methods). He stated that the goal is that they want the ability to convey a lot of the complexities of what this restoration is in very simple terms that everyone can understand emphasizing the general public because these are their resources. Mr. Weibe provided a brief update on Ongoing Accomplishments, starting with Rabbit Island (Very limited available CWB nesting habitat (prevalent nest inundation); Completed in 2021; 88 acres (shrub and select ground nesting birds and nourishment; maintained existing preferential habitat features and plantings and grasses. He also provided information on Productive Partnerships, stating that in 2023, partners played a critical role towards installation of a targeted protection features on Rabbit Island's E/NE shoreline with a total nest: 23,276 (2024). In closing, he highlighted a few target bird groups: Northern Gulf Nesting Birds, including select Colonial Waterbirds, Solitary Beach Nesting Birds, Non-Breeding Shorebirds, and Marsh Birds. The Programmatic Bird Restoration prioritizes implementation of proven Best Management Practices, as well as enhancing trustees capacity to generate real work avian benefits through the state's coastal zone.










XI. **Preview of Upcoming Southwest Coastal Summit** - Kimberly Reyher, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (***video:1:39:44)*** Ms. Reyher introduced her organization to the board as a statewide nonprofit focused on uniting people in action to achieve thriving, sustainable LA coast for all. She stated that the organization plays an important role in engaging the public in support of large-scale restoration projects and conducts smaller-scale restoration projects of our own across south Louisiana, powered by volunteers. Ms. Reyer announced and invited the board/public to join State of the Coast conference in May of 2027 as well as the inaugural Southwest Louisiana Coastal Summit next week in Lake Charles. The theme of the summit is Our Future Coast: Uniting Science, Industry and Community. And that is a perfect summation of what we are attempting to do with this event. As you know, there is an unprecedented industrial boom in southwest Louisiana, and at the same time there is a flurry of science-based restoration activity taking place – or soon to take place.

**XII. Public Comment**

**XIII. Adjourn**

Motioned by: Mr. Richard

2nd: Mr. Alford/Unanimous