

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
COASTAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON JUNE 17, 2021**

PRESENT: Eugene J. Joanen, IV, Chair  
Roy Arrigo, Committee Member  
Mark L. Morgan, Committee Member

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The Coastal Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA or Authority) met on June 17, 2021, at the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Joanen called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

**Opening Comments:** Mr. Joanen commented that John Troutman was in attendance and was graciously providing his time to inform the Committee about the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's projects near and within the FPA's jurisdiction.

**Adoption of Agenda:** The Committee adopted the agenda as presented.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the Coastal Committee meeting held on May 20, 2021 were approved.

**Public Comments:** None

**New Business:**

**A. Report on five State of Louisiana coastal restoration projects aimed at reversing effects of the MRGO (Golden Triangle Marsh Creation Project, New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation Project, Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline Project, Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration & Marsh Creation Project, and Increment 1 of the Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project).**

Mr. Arrigo explained that he and Mr. Troutman may cover some of the same projects; however, Mr. Troutman would be providing more detailed information. The five CPRA projects are specifically targeted on reversing the effects of the damages caused by the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet (MR-GO) and are located in the Lake Borgne/MR-GO area:

- Golden Triangle Marsh Creation Project – Restores 774 acres of wetlands in the Lake Borgne Area.
- New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation Project – Restores 290 acres along Chef Menteur Highway in the Lake Catherine area.
- Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline Project – Installs 11 miles of oyster reefs along Eloi Bay and Bayou La Loutre in St. Bernard Parish.

- Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration & Marsh Creation Project – Creates about 20 miles of ridge and 193 acres of new marsh and nourishes 240 acres of eroding marsh with sediment along Bayou La Loutre.
- Increment 1 of the Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project – Nourishes 2,700 acres of marsh along the southwest corner of Lake Borgne in St. Bernard Parish.

Mr. Arrigo advised that the projects are funded through various sources. Increment 1 of the Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project will be funded by BP NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment) monies. Mr. Joanen pointed out that a number of projects would likely not be happening without the BP monies.

Mr. Arrigo reported that the CPRA Board met on June 16<sup>th</sup> in Plaquemines Parish. The meeting focused on projects that effect Plaquemines Parish. He pointed out that in the past 15 years, the CPRA has done what was said could not be done, which was to build more coastal land than is being eroded. Mitigation and the commencement of the construction of projects were big issues. He noted that the CPRA is still collecting data for a number of future projects.

**B. John Troutman with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to provide information on projects in the vicinity of the FPA’s jurisdiction.**

John Troutman, Regional Operations Manager for CPRA’s New Orleans Regional Office, advised that significant progress has been made, unfortunately, on the back of the BP oil spill. The BP NRDA monies accelerated the CPRA’s program. The program started with the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), which was enacted about 30 years ago.

Mr. Troutman provided an Overview of Current Southeast Louisiana Restoration Projects near the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS):

Louisiana has one of the highest land loss rates in the world. About 2,000 square miles have been lost between 1932 and 2016. If action is not taken, over the next 50 years Louisiana will lose another 2,000 square miles of land. The CPRA Master Plan includes three scenarios (low, medium and high) on increased land loss based on different projections of sea level rise. Land loss is a complex, multi-factorial problem. The numerous factors include river levees, tropical storms and faults across the coast. Increased land loss increases flood risks. Half of the 50 billion-dollar Master Plan is dedicated to risk reduction (\$25 billion) and half is dedicated to restoration (\$25 billion). Risk reduction includes structural flood protection (e.g., levees and floodwalls) and non-structural flood protection (e.g., raising homes, building codes and flooding mitigation).

The main types of restoration projects are:

- Barrier Island Restoration
- Marsh and Ridge Creation
- Shoreline Protection
- Hydrologic Restoration (*small scale; weirs and culverts*)

- Freshwater Diversions (*larger ecosystem scale hydro restoration*)
- Small Sediment Diversions (*West Bay, smaller crevasses*)
- Large Sediment Diversions (*Mid-BA and Breton*)

Mr. Troutman reviewed some of the projects accomplished with early restoration dollars:

- Barrier islands projects - Shell, Pelican, Scofield and Whiskey Islands.
- Long distance sediment pipeline - 7 or 8 projects were built off the pipeline corridor including a marsh creation and ridge project in Barataria Basin.
- Small scale sediment (uncontrolled) diversions - West Bay Diversion.
- Controlled diversions - David Pond Fresh Water Diversion and Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

Mr. Troutman noted that the CPRA Master Plan includes 63 projects located in Southeast Louisiana with 35 of those projects in construction. He reviewed several projects that were recently bid for construction or are close to construction:

**Labranch Central and East Marsh Creation Project (PO-75 & PO-133)**

- The two CWPPRA funded projects will be bid and constructed at the same time.
- PO-75 Area: 931 Acres                      PO-133 Area: 747 Acres
- PO-75 Total: \$55.3 Million              PO-133 Total: \$388 Million
- Construction is scheduled for Spring 2022.

**St. Catherine Island Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection**

- 340 acres of restored marsh habitat, adding 20,319 linear feet of foreshore rock dike and revetment, and increasing the rock dike shoreline protection to 33,340 linear feet.
- CWPPRA / USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) funded - \$36 million.

**Lake Borgne Marsh Creation – Increment 1 (PO 0180)** (Increment 2 will be located farther to the west in the area separating Shell Beach from Lake Borgne)

- Largest CRPA dredge material and marsh creation project by acreage.
- 2,816 acres of restored marsh habitat near Shell Beach in St. Bernard Parish.
- NRDA funded - \$114.6 million
- Project has been bid and work will begin soon.

**Golden Triangle Marsh Creation (PO 0163)**

- 774 acres of Restored Marsh Habitat
- NRDA funded - \$54.3 million
- Bid awarded to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock; survey work has begun.

**Spanish Pass Increment – Barataria Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation**

- Largest CPRA dredge project by volume.
- 16 million cubic yards
- Creating/nourishing 1,700 acres of marsh and 32 acres of ridge
- NRDA / LA TIG (Trustee Implementation Group) funded - \$100.3 million

### **HSDRRS LPV Mitigation Projects**

- Constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with the State as the local sponsor and turned over to the FPA for operation and maintenance.
- Bayou Sauvage BLH (Bottom Land Hardwood) Enhancement – constructed in 2015.
- New Zydeco Ridge BLH and Brackish Marsh – constructed in 2020.
- Bayou Sauvage Marsh Creation (Brackish Marsh) – constructed in 2020.
- Turtle Bayou Marsh Creation – constructed in 2019

Mr. Troutman reviewed the components of the Coastal Information Management System (CIMS), which is available on the CPRA website. The CIMS includes an interactive map viewer, database and documents.

Mr. Joanen thanked Mr. Troutman for his presentation.

Mr. Arrigo commented on the number of projects that the CPRA is constructing through dredging. The Committee discussed the current and future demands for dredges and the use of various sized dredges for different sized channels and projects. Mr. Joanen commented on the smaller siphon technologies, which he suggested may be an ultimate solution for foreshore protection efforts. Mr. Troutman advised that approximately \$17 billion of Master Plan funding is allocated for dredging projects.

### **C. Discussion of potential candidate studies for foreshore protection efforts.**

Mr. Troutman advised that BP / NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Federation) grant funding was recently received for the Bucktown Marsh Restoration and Living Shoreline Project located between Bucktown and the Causeway. The State will provide \$3.5 million surplus dollars for the project and Jefferson Parish will also contribute funding.

Mr. Joanen explained that he was reluctant to just jump in and commit the FPA to any project. At this time the Committee is still exploring and evaluating projects. If a project is determined to be vital, a decision regarding participation can be made by the Board.

Mr. Morgan asked who was the current representative for the region on the CPRA Board. Mr. Arrigo advised that the membership for the CPRA Board was restructured by basins. Guy McGinnis represents the Pontchartrain Basin.

Mr. Joanen commented that he is open to looking at foreshore protection efforts; especially, those that reduce daily wave energy. The projects can have a balance of recreational and habitat creation components. He commented on the importance of the projects taking place closer to the BonneCarre Spillway that capture and bring sediment to the shoreline to promote foreshore protection projects.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.