



The Flood Protection Authority-East

News of Your Flood Defense System

July 15, 2022



Permanent Canal Closure and Pumps - Orleans Avenue Outfall Canal

The Flood Protection Authority
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 **Flood Protection Authority**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

K. Randall Noel – President
Roy M. Arrigo – Vice President
Clay A. Cosse' – Secretary
Jason P. Latlols – Treasurer
Richard G. Duplantier, Jr.
Herbert I. Miller, PE, DDE, F. ASCE

Message from President Randy Noel

I'd like to thank the Commissioners for placing their faith in me to serve as president of Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority. The responsibility of this position is not lost on me. July 1 I was immediately working. I am serving on a group to interview our next police chief. Thank you, Kenyetta Sewell, our new Human Relations Director, for the many applications and information on each candidate. It is an impressive group, and I am sure we will choose a quality candidate. I am also serving on a task force reviewing several surveying companies to serve us in the future, I can tell you looking at the submissions again we will pick an excellent company. Finally, I was given a ¾ inch thick Emergency procedures book to review. I have quickly come to appreciate Mark Morgan and Herb Miller for leading our group.

I am excited about our 6 commissioners, hopefully we will get the other three soon, and what each one brings to our group. Roy Arrigo has lived a catastrophic failure of a flood control structure and has the experience to know how important our mission is. Jason Latlols is President of Barriere Construction and knows our operations and works with budgets which will make him a great Treasurer. Clay Cosse' having served as a councilman in St. Bernard Parish has a keen eye for charges by consultants and contractors and has already saved the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. Rick Duplantier is a great legal mind and will guide us through the morass of the law covering our endeavors. Finally, Herb Miller having worked in parish government and as an engineer as well as a past president of the commission is a resource we can count on to be well versed in all we do. We have a good mix, and I am sure we will carry out our mission as I see it, "Keep our constituents safe and dry from storm surges and rising water".

Our team is some the most talented individuals we can have. Kelli Chandler did a marvelous job of organizing our finances tying 3 distinctly different flood authorities together while keeping the expenses apart for accountability from each. And now as Regional Director she is perfectly placed to bring us to the next level, modernizing our expenses, inventory, labor expenses, and revenue through our new Pronto endeavor. Chris Humphreys coordinates a multitude of contractors, engineers, and consultants that keep our recently acquired 14.8-billion-dollar flood control system in top-notch shape. Glenda Boudreaux's work allows me to sleep at night. She knows our responsibility and obligations backwards and forward. Wilma Heaton has contacts at all levels of government and keeps us abreast of potential legislation effecting our mission. Kimberly Curth brings TV news expertise to her PR mission, and we have worked together previously. Denise Businelle has big shoes to fill, but it has been said she was one the best hires we have made. All our over 200 employees are top notch and the areas we protect can sleep better at night knowing they are on the job.



IN THIS ISSUE PAGE

Election of FPA Officers 2

**Recognition of FPA
Commissioners
Mark L. Morgan and
Eugene J. Joanen, IV 2**

Legislative Update 3

ISTORM VISIT 3

**Coastal Conference
hosted by FPA 5, 6 & 7**

**FPA Public Information
Alerts 8**

Election of FPA-E Board Officers

Each year in June, the Board of Commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East, elects the Officers who will serve a one-year term starting on July 1st.



The Board at its June 16, 2022, meeting elected the following members to serve as the Officers of the Board from July 1, 2022, thru June 30, 2023: (pictured left-right) K. Randall Noel, President; Roy M. Arrigo, Vice President; Clay A. Cosse, Secretary; and Jason P. Latiolais, Treasurer.

Recognition of the Service of Mark L. Morgan

Mark L. Morgan was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve as a member of the Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) Board effective June 6, 2016, and reappointed to serve a second term as a member of the Board ending on July 1, 2022.

During his tenure as a member of the Board he served in the offices of President from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022; Vice President from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021, and Treasurer from October 20, 2016 to June 30, 2019. During his time on the Board Mr. Morgan also served on the Finance, Operations and Coastal Committees.



Mark Morgan and Roy Arrigo

Mr. Morgan brought over forty years' experience in Civil Engineering, environmental assessments and remediation to the Board and its management and operation of the critical \$14 billion Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), which protects the lives and property of the citizens of the Greater New Orleans region.

Mr. Morgan was presented with a copy of the resolution adopted by the Board expressing its gratitude and appreciation for his dedication and contributions during his tenure as a member of the Board and for his service to the citizens of Southeast Louisiana.

Recognition of the Service of Eugene J. Joanen, IV



Clay Cosse, Gene Joanen and Roy Arrigo

Eugene J. Joanen, IV, was appointed by Governor John Bel Edward to serve as a member of the FPA-East Board effective July 2, 2020. Mr. Joanen brought 30-plus years of experience in the environmental sciences to the Board and the management of the HSDRRS.

Mr. Joanen's leadership, enthusiasm, professional expertise and hard work as Chair of the Coastal Committee since July 2, 2020, increased awareness and support for coastal protection and restoration efforts. He emphasized the importance of the building with nature (living shoreline) concept for providing an additional layer of flood risk reduction for the region.

Under Mr. Joanen's leadership, the FPA's Coastal Committee hosted its first Coastal Conference on May 19, 2022, bringing together numerous governmental agencies entities and stakeholders for the sharing of knowledge, expertise and support for coastal restoration efforts in Louisiana.

Mr. Joanen was presented with a copy of the resolution adopted by the Board expressing its gratitude and appreciation for his dedication and contributions during his tenure as a member of the Board and for his service to the citizens of Southeast Louisiana.

Legislative Update on the Flood Protection Authority-East

The 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature brought significant changes to the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA-East). Act 1 of the 2006 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature established the FPA-East as the governing authority over the East Jefferson, Orleans and Lake Borgne Basin Levee Districts, as well as St. Tammany Parish, Tangipahoa Parish and the east bank portions of St. Charles and St. John the Baptist Parishes. The initial Board was an eleven member board with one member from each parish within the FPA-East's territorial jurisdiction. Act 521 of 2009 removed St. Charles and St. John the Baptist Parishes and reduced the membership of the Board from 11 to nine. Act 303 of 2014 removed the St. Tammany Levee District from the FPA-East's jurisdiction. Legislative actions through the years resulted in a nine member FPA-East Board and a 2006 requirement that allowed only one member from each of the three parishes within its territorial jurisdiction (that is, Orleans, East Jefferson and St. Bernard Parishes) which had established levee districts that received ad valorem tax revenues, and Tangipahoa Parish, which at this time has no established levee district.

Act 458 of 2022, which was introduced by Senator Jimmy Harris, representing District 4, and signed by Governor John Bel Edwards, became effective on June 15, 2022. Act 458 removed Tangipahoa Parish from the FPA-East's territorial jurisdiction and adjusted the composition of the nine member Board to require the inclusion of one member from St. Bernard Parish, two members from Jefferson Parish, and three members from Orleans Parish residing within the FPA-East's territorial jurisdiction. Currently serving members will complete their terms and the legislative change will take effect as current terms expire. Act 458 allows representation from Orleans, East Jefferson and St. Bernard Parishes more proportional to ad valorem tax revenues received by the FPA-East from each parish.

SB 458 does not affect or change the initial requirement for the FPA-East Board to be composed of five members who are engineers or in a profession in a related field with one being a civil engineer, two members who are professionals in a discipline with ten-years' experience other than an engineering or related field, and two members at-large relative to profession.

Act 431 of 2022 transfers the duties of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority relative to serving as secretary and custodian of records for the nomination committee for the Flood Protection Authorities' Boards to the Regional Directors or in his/her absence the President of each Authority.

I-STORM Team Visits the Flood Protection Authorities



I-STORM is “the international knowledge sharing network for all those working in the storm surge barrier industry.” At the beginning of May, a Dutch contingent of I-STORM visited the area and spent several days with FPA-East team members touring parts of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System and learning more about the FPA's operations.

The FPA's guests were able to visit all three Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) facilities and tour the complex structure (navigation) gates in the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier.

During these visits, the I-STORM team was able to see how annual inspections of the pump stations are conducted and showed a special interest in the barge gate concept, which was new to them.

The group also visited FPA-West locations, including the West Closure Complex, and part of the group drove down to Terrebonne to see the Bubba Dove barge gate and additional flood control structures. Towards the end of the week, both the appropriate FPA-East staff and the I-STORM group attended the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana meeting in Baton Rouge. Overall, the week was a wonderful opportunity for those working on storm barriers in the two nations to share ideas and feedback to better protect their respective communities.

Full Ownership of HSDRRS Turned Over to the State



Governor John Bel Edwards

On May 27, 2022, a ceremony was held to celebrate the completion of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) and to turn over full ownership to the State from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The \$14.5 billion project is comprised of a 130-mile ring of floodgates, strengthened levees, and complex structures that took nearly two decades to complete.

The May 27th event took place atop the Lake Borgne Surge Barrier, a complex system that is located at the confluence of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet. Governor John Bel Edwards, state and local officials, USACE leaders, and the heads of Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authorities East and West were in attendance to speak to the importance of the system for the safety and preservation of the five parishes the HSDRRS surrounds.



Senator John Kennedy

**Congressman
Garrett Graves**

Several speakers brought up the memory of Hurricane Katrina and the devastation it caused to the region in 2005 prior to the system's construction. They contrasted this with the fact that the HSDRRS has already proven its worth by protecting the Greater New Orleans area from potential flooding by storms such as Hurricane Ida. Governor Edwards stated, "The lesson here is when we invest in protection, when we mitigate against the risk of storms, we win."



New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell



CPRA Chair Chip Kline

And Flood Protection Authority-East's own Regional Director, Kelli Chandler, made sure to acknowledge the state civil service employees who are a critical component of HSDRRS' operations. "I also want to say thank you to the hundreds of men and women who operate the system and maintain the system on a daily basis. Without them we wouldn't be where we are today. We wouldn't have the protection that we had for Ida." Chandler went on to discuss the system checks and table top scenarios that have been run through in preparation for the 2022 hurricane season.



Scott Burke, President, FPA-West

State offices and the USACE are now partnering to build the Upper Barataria and Westshore Lake Pontchartrain risk reduction systems, with HSDRRS as their model.



**Lieutenant General Scott Spellman,
USACE Chief of Engineers**



**Colonel Stephen F. Murphy,
Commander USACE NOD**



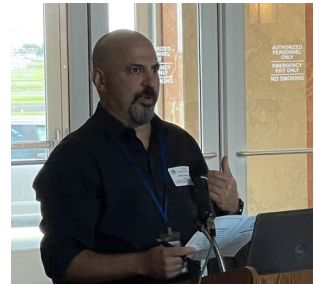
2022 Coastal Conference



The Coastal Conference hosted by the Coastal & Technical Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) on May 19, 2022, in the New Orleans Lakefront Airport Atrium was well attended by governmental and agency partners in coastal restoration, as well as interested stakeholders.

Participants, including representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, U.S. Fish Wildlife Service, the Water Institute of the Gulf, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes, were afforded an opportunity to interact in order to encourage new ideas and partnerships.

Conference emcee Gene Joanen (pictured right) explained that the goal of the Conference was basically to provide a workshop setting for the exchange of ideas and to facilitate discussions on funding sources, processes and successes. Mr. Joanen stated “from the Flood Protection Authority’s perspective, we want to encourage and foster our protection partner relationships.” Conference themes were Building with Nature and the importance of restoring coastal ecosystems that historically not only provided a degree of surge protection, but also offered a myriad of other benefits.



The presentations can be viewed on the Flood Protection Authority’s website. Go to floodauthority.org - select News - click on Conferences.

Coastal Initiatives on the Northshore



Randall B. Pausina - St. Tammany Parish, Coastal and Restoration Manager

St. Tammany is a coastal parish with a significant coastline and significant coastline problems; however, St. Tammany is taking on the challenge. In his presentation Mr. Pausina reviewed a number of the 14 proposed projects to be constructed using GOMESA funds. The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) shares leasing revenues with Gulf producing states for coastal restoration projects. St. Tammany plans to use bonds, which will be secured by approximately \$25 million of future GOMESA revenues, along with its current \$3.6 million of GOMESA funds, to get 14 projects off the ground in about six months.

The proposed projects are located in various parts of the parish and include a variety of shoreline protection, breakwater, marsh creation, living shoreline and recreational features.

Louisiana Watershed Initiative, Hurricane Recovery Grants in the Greater New Orleans Region

Genea Lathers - Office of Community Development

The Louisiana Office of Community Development administers disaster recovery funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The presentation addresses efforts funded by the \$1.2 billion of Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Funds appropriated to the State of Louisiana.



Three mitigation areas have been prioritized: Regional Coordination (Regional Watershed Management—Louisiana is divided into 8 Watershed Regions), Watershed Monitoring, and Flood Risk Reduction Projects. Statewide 28 Round 1 projects are currently in the engineering and design phase.

2022 Coastal Conference



Bucktown Living Shoreline Project

Lauren Averill - Jefferson Parish, District 5 Aid, Coastal Engineer

Lauren Averill excitedly discusses the Bucktown Living Shoreline Project, which she states is a “game changer involving many governmental agencies and many funding streams.” Bucktown is located on the Jefferson Parish side of the 17th Street Canal and is a historic fishing community that has been going through a transition since about 2000 when the Coast Guard station was constructed.

Jefferson Parish is unique extending from Lake Pontchartrain with the Mississippi River and Barataria Basin and connecting with the Gulf of Mexico in two different ways. The Lake Pontchartrain coastline in Jefferson Parish is about 10 miles in length and is the closest coast to 99 percent of the residents in Jefferson Parish.

The Bucktown Living Shoreline Project is about a mile in length and extends from Bucktown Harbor to the Bonnabel Boat Launch. The proposed project is the first living shoreline to be located in front of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). The rocks fronting the current foreshore protection along the HSDRRS in Jefferson Parish are sinking and causing erosion along the foreshore protection. The construction of a living shoreline along the HSDRRS levee could be a solution for this problem. The construction of a living shoreline along the entire length of the HSDRRS in Jefferson Parish was submitted to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority for inclusion in its 2023 Master Plan.

The Bucktown Living Shoreline Project includes breakwaters that front a marsh buffer, restoring the natural line of defense, along with a kayak blueway for recreation. Several funding sources were cobbled together to fund the \$11 million needed for construction. The presentation details Jefferson Parish’s coordination with partnering agencies, project features, permitting procedures and issues, funding, and how the project is coming to reality.

Working Towards a new Pontchartrain Beach: Bringing Beach, Lake and Passive Recreation Access to the New Orleans Community

Dana Brown – Owner, Dana Brown and Associates

Dana Brown, a native of the region, recalls memories of the historic Pontchartrain Beach. The presentation addresses the need to restore public access to both Pontchartrain Beach and Lincoln Beach—two deteriorating historic assets that have been closed to public access for many years. Advocates are working to bring back a new Pontchartrain Beach and new Lincoln Beach, and for restoring beach, lake and passive recreational access for the region.



Coastal Master Plan Process and Project Implementation



Brian Lezina – Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), Division Chief, Planning and Research

CPRA is the single State entity with the authority to articulate a clear statement of priorities for coastal restoration and protection through the creation and monitoring of the State’s Coastal Master Plan. A science driven, rather than political driven, process is used to develop the Coastal Master Plan, which is revised every six years.

The presentation provides an overview of the current 2017 Coastal Master Plan objectives (flood protection, restoration of natural processes and cultural habitats, and preservation of our cultural heritage and a working coast), decision drivers, constraints (e.g., sediment availability and funding), the technical analysis process and procedures, and funding streams, as well as projects included in the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Plan. A wide diversity of projects are included in the Master Plan that build and sustain lands and provide both structural and non-structural risk reduction, ecosystem benefits, time to prepare and adapt to a changing coast, and economic development opportunities. Mr. Lezina encouraged the submittal of potential projects by entities and the public for inclusion in future Master Plans and offered the CPRA’s assistance for project initiation.

2022 Coastal Conference

Engineering with Nature: The role of Fisheries Habitat in Flood Protection



Craig Gothreaux – NOAA, Fisheries Biologist, Habitat Conservation Division

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) regulatory role includes analyzing projects for impacts to essential fisheries habitats; however, NOAA is also involved in various restoration projects. The need for flood protection along the southern shoreline of Lake Pontchartrain resulted in an armored shoreline. Over time, as the hardened shoreline reflected wave energy, turbidity increased reducing seagrass beds along the south shore. However, the shoreline can be softened through adding marsh platforms or breakwaters, which would also provide an additional layer of defense while enhancing fisheries habitats.

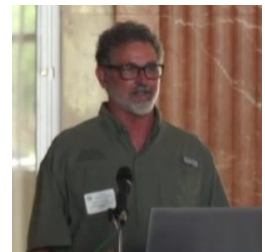
Federal agencies, such as NOAA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), are promoting natural and nature-based features (green infrastructure) including living shorelines. The presentation gives an overview of the multiple benefits provided by living shorelines and the monitoring and adaptive project management that is needed, and highlights, as an example, Project GreenShores in Pensacola, Florida, which won the EPA's Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program Award in 2003.

The New Orleans East Living Shorelines Project proposed by NOAA, extending from South Shore Harbor to Lincoln Beach, encompasses an area that historically had an abundance of seagrass beds, but today those beds are sparse. The project is designed so that there would be no interference with access needed for future HSDDRS maintenance or outfall structure flows. Potential project features include breakwaters, marsh terrace platforms and seagrass beds. Federal funding opportunities for green infrastructure are highlighted.

Updates Evaluating Gulf Sturgeon Habitat Used to Determine Suitability and Distribution of Wintering Habitat in Coastal Louisiana

Glenn Constant – USFWS, Louisiana Fisheries Chief

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation Program not only houses fish hatcheries, but also has aquatic science capacity. NOAA and USFWS share responsibility for management of Gulf Sturgeon. The presentation addresses the development of partnerships to allow positive contributions to the conservation of Louisiana's treasured resources, such as Gulf Sturgeon, in the planning, permitting and implementation of living shoreline and other coastal projects.



The Gulf Sturgeon, a migratory dinosaur fish, was listed as threatened in 1991; however, implementation of positive actions could potentially turn this situation around. The presentation provides an understanding of the issues, as well as the positive efforts being undertaken, relative to the conservation of the Gulf Sturgeon and its critical river and estuary habitats.

Becoming a Water City Community -Driven Adaptation and Stewardship

Aron Chang, Urban Designer, Planner and Educator



Aaron Chang, co-founder along with Tanya James of the Water Leaders Institute, provides information on the Institute's efforts to educate political and community leaders on the formation of the delta and landscape, the historic relationship with rivers and water bodies, and the relationship today with those natural resources.

The presentation addresses development of a framework that includes education (bringing water into the classroom), decision making, power and priorities to achieve positive environmental outcomes and that builds towards a community of stewards.

An overview is given of the EPA Environmental Education Continuum, which includes awareness, knowledge, critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, action and stewardship. The importance and strong desire for community participation in the critical thinking, problem solving and decision making processes are stressed.

FPA Public Information Alerts

sign-up



If we can't **REACH** you
we can't **ALERT** you

The Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) strives to provide timely information to the public regarding public safety issues, closures and events that impact people, businesses and communities in order to minimize disruptions and keep the public safe and informed. The FPA implemented the Everbridge Management Platform for providing alerts to the public.

Everbridge is the industry standard using the most up-to-date communication technology and is widely used throughout federal, state and local government agencies, organizations, commerce and industry.

The FPA offers subscriptions to the following Keywords:

Floodgate (Information on floodgate opening, closing or maintenance)

FPAEast (General news about the Flood Protection Authority-East)

River (Information about the High River or the Mississippi River)

HighTide (Information regarding gate openings and closures as they relate to high tide situations)

It's a simple process to register for these Emergency Alerts. Text the appropriate Keyword listed above to "333111" for the alerts you would like to receive. In order to receive alerts offered under more than one Keyword, each Keyword must be texted to "333111".

FPA-East Website

The Flood Protection Authority-East website contains a wealth of information about our flood defense system (Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System and Mississippi River Levee), the FPA's mission and the team of professionals that govern, manage, maintain and operate the critical flood defense system, as well as services offered by the FPA.

The website also includes Teacher Resources and the middle School Lesson Plans developed by the FPA for Science and Social Studies: "Keeping Your Head Above Water—Know Your Flood Protection System" and "Flood Fight Along the Mississippi River—Mississippi River Lesson Plan."

Visit our website today - www.floodauthority.org

Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East Board and Committee Meetings can be viewed via livestream by visiting the FPA website www.floodauthority.org and selecting Business - Board Meeting Videos. Click on live stream.

The Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) is currently offering both in-person and virtual tours of the \$4 Billion Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), which spans East Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes. In-person tour groups have the option of visiting the 17th St Canal Pump Station or the Lake Borgne-IHNC Surge Barrier. Groups may sign up for both tours but may not be able to see both on the same day.

For additional information go to the FPA's website www.floodauthority.org and select "Facility Tours". Both in-person and virtual tours can be scheduled by clicking on "Schedule a Tour".

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**Comments can be submitted to:
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