

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
COASTAL AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2022**

PRESENT: Roy Arrigo, Chair  
Thomas G. Fierke, Committee Member

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The Coastal and Technical Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA or Authority) met on October 20, 2022, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, LA. Mr. Arrigo called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Opening Comments:** Mr. Arrigo advised that the items on today's agenda were for discussion only and that no action was needed.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The Committee approved the minutes of the Coastal and Technical Committee meeting held on June 16, 2022.

**Public Comments:** None

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) Master Plan.**

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John Troutman, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) Regional Operations Manager, provided information on existing projects, as well as projects included in the Master Plan.

**Projects under construction or headed to construction (bids received):**

- **Golden Triangle Marsh Creation** – Project is located in front of the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier and includes 700 acres of marsh creation. Two sources of funding for the project: RESTORE (Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States) Act for engineering and design and NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment Act) for construction. Some work has been done on the project. The contractor is currently on another job, but will return to work on this project.
- **New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Creation** – Project is located near Lake Catherine flanking Highway 90 and is funded by CWPPRA (Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act). Project includes three cells of marsh creation (284 acres) and three miles of shoreline protection. Containment is being built and the dredge should arrive this week.

- **Lake Borgne Marsh Creation – Increment 1** – Project is 2,700 acres. Containment is being built. The contractor is currently on a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ (USACE) job, but will return at the end of November to begin construction of the marsh cells.
- **Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline** – A demonstration project was constructed several years ago. A larger project is being implemented based on what was learned from the demonstration project. Project includes 11 miles of breakwaters to provide shoreline protection and has structures capable of growing oysters and other organisms since project is located in a salinity zone.

**2023 Coastal Master Plan:**

- The Master Plan is the State’s plan for prioritizing locations for projects. It does not guarantee funding. Final projects have not yet been selected. The projects in the plan will be supported for State funding.
- The candidate list of projects under evaluation include marsh creation projects located near the FPA’s jurisdiction, ridge protection projects spread around the region, and the Lake Pontchartrain Barrier Plan.
- The Lake Pontchartrain Barrier Plan was recently presented and discussed at a St. Tammany Levee Board meeting. The Regional Planning Commission adopted a resolution petitioning the USACE to study the project again. The project was included in the 2017 Master Plan and will very likely be included in the 2023 Master Plan since it scored well on the scoring criteria for project selection. The plan follows Highway 90 and is designed to about 2-feet in order to prevent the early storm surge fronting the I-wall from coming into the lake. This reduces the amount of water entering the lake thereby lowering storm elevations in the lake. The Lake Pontchartrain Barrier Plan is estimated to cost \$2.3 billion; therefore, the project would probably need to be federally funded.
- A series of meetings will be held in November in New Orleans, St. Bernard and around the coast to present the candidate projects for the draft Master Plan. The 2023 Master Plan will be finalized around the end of the year and will be submitted to the Legislature next spring for approval.
- Instructions are included on the CPRA website for submitting projects. The CPRA website also includes a GIS based viewer exhibiting projects from past Master Plans and linking fact sheets for the projects. The viewer will be updated to include 2023 Master Plan projects so that the public can see where restoration is targeted.
- The Master Plan is issued every six years and the next plan will be issued in 2029.

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, commented about the New Orleans Landbridge Project. Several wall heights had been studied (from 22 feet to as low as 2 feet) and it was found that the reduction in damage from the low plan is almost equal to the high plan; however, the low plan is much less expensive and induces much less damage in Mississippi counties as well as St. Bernard.

## **B. Discussion of the Lake Pontchartrain Barrier plan.**

Discussed under Item A.

## **C. Discussion of the Living Shoreline initiative.**

Lauren Averill, Jefferson Parish District 5 (Councilwoman Jennifer Van Vrancken) Aid, Coastal Engineer and Project Manager, provided an update on the Bucktown Living Shoreline Project.

- The project is located between the Bonnabel Boat Launch and Bucktown. In addition to providing a buffer for shoreline protection, the project has ecological, fisheries and recreational benefits (a safe kayak blueway), and it enables residents to actually see a marsh. The FPA was contacted when the first grant application was being made regarding the ongoing foreshore protection issues along the Lakefront Levee in Jefferson Parish to suggest that the proposed project could provide both foreshore protection as well as ecological benefits.
- The project to construct a living shoreline along the nearly ten mile stretch from Kenner to the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal was submitted for the 2023 State Master Plan. The project is considered a programmatic project. A community meeting was held about a month ago in Jefferson Parish presenting the project.
- Feasibility studies and value engineering were done in order to arrive at the best project for the available funding. The location of the Bucktown Living Shoreline Project is deeper than the area between the Bonnabel Boat Launch and the Causeway, which is reflected in the cost.
- The Bucktown Living Shoreline Project will be contracted and constructed in two phases using a hybrid approach. In the first phase, which will take about nine months, the breakwaters will be constructed and then the marsh creation platforms will be filled in. Materials will be pumped in from the dredge disposal area located on the other side of the Causeway (about three miles away). The middle breakwaters will be used as containment; however, the breakwaters on the east and west will have some in situ borrow to allow for some functionality of the breakwaters prior to the second phase.
- The pumped in sediment material is estimated to take 6 to 18 months to settle to a component that can support the equipment for phase two of the project, which includes digging out the middle blueway and tidal inlets and doing some plantings. The tidal inlets will allow flow into the marsh in order to provide a healthier marsh.
- A kayak launch will be constructed on the northeast edge of Bucktown Harbor Park about the same time as the construction of the Bucktown Living Shoreline Project. The intent is to have a blueway that allows individuals to kayak to the middle breakwaters, around into the lake, then to Bonnabel and back (about one mile).

- There have been no issues with FPA permitting for the project. The FPA will have access for any maintenance required for the flood protection system. Difficulties were encountered in obtaining a USACE permit and the environmental review is anticipated to be completed soon. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) permit was expedited and received.
- Approval was received about a week ago to advertise for bids for the Bucktown Living Shoreline Project. Jefferson Parish is working in tandem with the permitting and anticipates advertising the project for bid by the end of the year and opening the bids after January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The current estimated cost of the Bucktown Living Shoreline Project is \$11.3 million, which does not include 20 percent uplift. No FPA funding was received for the project. The project was funded from several different sources:
  - National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) Grants - \$2.5 Million
  - Parish GOMESA Funds - \$4 Million
  - Louisiana Capital Outlay - \$1 Million
  - CPRA Coastal Surplus Funding – \$3.5 Million

Ms. Averill anticipated that funding would be received for the educational component of the project and pump stations. Jefferson Parish is also working with the FPA on the Lake Villa Project, which is a hydrological project for which some funding has been received from the FPA.

Mr. Arrigo pointed out the importance of the living shoreline project, which will add a layer of protection for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) levee and contribute to foreshore protection, along with the other benefits that will be provided. Ms. Averill added that extensive modeling was done in order to determine the height of the breakwaters for the living shoreline project.

Mark Schexnayder informed the Committee that, in conjunction with the Vietnamese Community Development / Lincoln Beach group, an application for NOAA grant funding was submitted for a living shoreline project (New Orleans East Living with Water). He explained that he developed a water plan for New Orleans East that would include a demonstration project for living shorelines. Interest has been expressed in a living shoreline protection for the Seabrook area (beach and boat launch) as it is utilized by disadvantaged communities. Other funding sources and streams are being looked at for resiliency and flood protection projects. He added that he would continue searching for funding for projects that will help the FPA fulfill its mission.

There was no further discussion; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.