

CPRA/OCPR Updates

FEBRUARY 2010



Welcome to the first of many CPRA newsletters. The goal of this newsletter is to provide monthly updates on projects being built to protect and restore our coast and our people and make you aware of new developments in state and federal laws and policies regarding our effort.

The commitment and dedication to protection and restoration over the past two years in our state is unprecedented and we expect that commitment to continue for many years to come. When compared to the levels of funding and the projects built before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, this state is now doing 1500 percent more restoration and protection work with roughly the same number of employees!

The days of endless studies have passed. We are building more efficiently and we are putting projects on the ground.

The CPRA has an enormous task ahead of it. We want the citizens of our state to be aware of our progress and to help us determine the best ways to restore and protect this coast. We want to hear your ideas and address your concerns, whether you attend a CPRA meeting or any of our public meetings being held throughout the year, participate in our regional stakeholder workshops or send us an email with your ideas.

Your ideas and support help us build faster and smarter. Thank you for being involved with our effort to restore and protect this coast and we look forward to hearing from you throughout this year and beyond.

Sincerely,
Garret Graves,
Chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

FY 2011 Annual Plan

OCPR has made tremendous progress over the last several years in protecting Louisiana's coastal assets and restoring coastal ecosystems. The FY 2011 Annual Plan builds on the FY 2010 plan and provides an expanded discussion of OCPR's progress in protecting and restoring the coast. This plan also presents the results of OCPR's new efforts to improve its planning process and details its progress in project implementation during FY 2010. Tools and methods that assist decision makers and improve the planning process are also discussed. The plan presents schedules and projected expenditures for coastal projects and programs including a detailed projection of how OCPR expects to receive and allocate funds during FY 2011-2013.

The following public hearings have been scheduled to receive comments and recommendations on the draft of the plan.

Monday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. in Chalmette
St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers
8201 W. Judge Perez Drive

Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. in Houma
Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Council Chambers
Government Tower Building
8026 Main Street

Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. in Lake Charles
Lake Charles Civic Center
900 Lakeshore Drive

The opportunity for the public to comment on the draft of the plan ends March 13, 2010. The completed plan will be submitted to the legislature April 12, 2010.

Project Update – Bayou Dupont

Construction continues on one of the most innovative coastal restoration projects ever built, The Mississippi River Sediment Delivery System – Bayou Dupont. Located between Belle Chasse and Myrtle Grove in Plaquemines Parish, the project is being built by moving sediment from the Mississippi River through five miles of pipe to a 550 acre site spilt between Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes – an area that was once healthy marsh but has been ravaged by hurricanes and saltwater intrusion. The project marks the first time sediment has been mined from the river and used specifically to rebuild marsh and demonstrates what can be accomplished when soil dredged from the river is used beneficially to rebuild coastal wetlands.

Sediment pumping began last November and is scheduled to conclude this spring. Once the sediment pipe is turned off, native vegetation will be planted in the area to turn it into a functioning marsh once again. Projects that use sediment from the Mississippi River and other waterways across coastal Louisiana are an integral part of Louisiana's comprehensive effort to restore and protect its coast.



Calendar of Events

- The Harvey Canal Industrial Association – Guest Speaker Garret Graves, Feb. 4, 11:30 a.m.
- Governor's Advisory Commission Meeting – Feb. 25, 9 a.m.
- ALBL Executive Committee Meeting – Guest Speaker Garret Graves, Mar. 2, 10 a.m.
- CPRA Meeting – Mar 17, 9:30 a.m.

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Capitol Annex - State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 44027
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4027
www.lacpra.org