

MINUTES
Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority
(CPCRPA)
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 5:00 PM
LSU Ag Center
Abbeville, Louisiana

President, Kay Barnett, called the meeting to order at five o'clock PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sara Judson. A reflection and prayer in memory of our departed board member, Ralph Libersat was given.

Susan Mouton initiated the roll call with the following results:

Jake McCain – Present	Kay Barnett – Present
Phillip “Scooter” Trosclair – Present	Kalyn Partin – Present
Trevor Hair – Present	Earl Landry, Jr. - Absent
Earnestine “Tina” Horn – Absent	
Sara Judson – Present	

Guest in attendance were: Jennifer Mouton, Fenstermaker & Associates; Jacob Jewell, Kara Bonsall, Cameron Coastal Zone Administrator; Tiffany Lanier, Laurie Cormier, CPRA Board Member; Reuben Gathright, Jerry Carroll, CPRA; and Rusty Vincent, Coastal Conservation Association. Appreciation was given to Fenstermaker & Associates for providing refreshments for the meeting.

President Barnett asked if anyone in the audience had any questions or comments for the Board. There were none.

A motion was made by Scooter Trosclair, seconded by Trevor Hair, and carried to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented to the Board.

President Barnett discussed the nomination of Ralph Libersat for the 2023 Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana Coastal Stewardship Award.

“The Forgotten Coast” a film documentary made by Jacob Jewell, a Sam Houston High School student, who participated in the CSPAN StudentCam Contest was shown. Jacob won 2nd place out of over 1,500 entries in the contest. The board presented Jacob with an Achievement Certificate and encouraged him to keep up the great work.

Kim Montie, Cameron Parish Port Director, gave a presentation on alternative oyster culture, which is oyster farming. This project is being developed on the south end of Calcasieu Lake. It is a 50 acre project involving pilings and floating oyster cages for growing a niche-type of oyster that can be harvested by qualified local oyster fishermen. This project will benefit the ecology of the lake and estuary as well as our local fishing and seafood industries.

It was moved by Scooter Trosclair, seconded by Trevor Hair and carried that the following Resolution is adopted and approved and the Secretary is hereby authorized to forward the Resolution to the appropriate officials and agencies mentioned in the Resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING FROM ANY STATE FUNDING REVENUE SOURCE FOR THE CAMERON GULF SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECT, THE WHITE LAKE WETLANDS CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT IN VERMILION PARISH AND THE WILDHORSE RIDGE PROJECT IN CALCASIEU PARISH

WHEREAS, the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration & Protection Authority was created pursuant to the provisions of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, Article VI, Sections 38, 38.1 and 44, and La. R.S. 38:329.5; and

WHEREAS, the Chenier Plain CRPA is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, and through its board of commissioners, is organized with the primary duty to establish, construct, operate, or maintain flood control works as they relate to hurricane protection, tidewater flooding, saltwater intrusion, and conservation, and a secondary duty to establish flood control, adequate drainage relating to tidal or riverine flooding, and water resources development including but not limited to construction of reservoirs, diversion canals, gravity and pump drainage systems, erosion control measures, and marsh management; and

WHEREAS, the Chenier Plain Authority is inclusive of the Parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron, & Vermilion and seeks support of funding from any state revenue source consistent with the State Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, shoreline protection is vital along the entire Cameron Parish Gulf Coast Shoreline; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Coastal Louisiana remains highly susceptible to a host of environmental factors including tropical storm and hurricane impacts, coastal flooding, shoreline erosion, loss of wetlands and habitats due to land subsidence, sea-level rise, and the area's close proximity to the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Collectively, these environmental factors have led to expansive land loss and ecosystem degradation along Cameron Parish's approximately 75-mile coastline; and

WHEREAS, shoreline protection has been identified as a high priority as memorialized within the Cameron Parish and Louisiana's Coastal Master Plans; and

WHEREAS, previous breakwater projects have had significant success in reducing land loss rates, halting erosion, building land, and enhancing fisheries habitat. It is clear that the accretion of sediment in relation to the breakwaters has increased the footprint of the shoreline and thus provided more of a barrier for storms given the extra protection needed; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of this proven and innovative methodology, project will accentuate ongoing shoreline protection activities that directly benefit coastal community resiliency for the families, communities, infrastructure, and industries of Cameron Parish. Further, this project will directly enhance regional fish and wildlife resources and therefore provide beneficial opportunities for the citizens of Cameron Parish and the broader State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, shoreline protection is needed in Vermilion Parish; and

WHEREAS, large portions of the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WLWCA) have been impacted by levee breaches along the border with White Lake, on the Florence Canal, and along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) caused by storm activity, navigation traffic and age-related deterioration, threatening the capability for maintaining the managing key habitats for both breeding and wintering waterfowl, waterbirds and wetland wildlife, and

WHEREAS, twenty-two of the 24 miles of GIWW shoreline are unprotected. Over broad areas in many locations, only a few feet of low spoil bank keep water from this major navigation canal from inundating the marsh and productive agricultural land. Past storm activity has caused substantial flooding of the property from the GIWW. Levees along Florence Canal, built decades ago, have oil-production infrastructure atop and through them, which along with mature woody vegetation have reduced their function. Multiple breaches occurred last summer, and levees can no longer keep water out during periods when pumps need to operate to maintain the wetland habitat. In 2005 and 2020, hurricanes breached the southern levee causing complete flooding of that critical habitat. In 2020, 6 barges of material were required to close the breach because on-site material is no longer there, and

WHEREAS, specific goals of the project are: 1) rock breakwaters along 22 miles of the GIWW; and, 2) rock breakwaters on 16 miles of White Lake's north shore refurbish the levee; and

WHEREAS, shoreline protection is needed in the Calcasieu-Sabine Basin; and

WHEREAS, the north bank of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) from the Gum Cove Ferry Landing, west to the mouth of the Vinton Drainage Ditch, is currently exhibiting a shoreline loss rate of approximately 10 feet per year on average since 1988, with the limits of the waterbody well outside the bounds of the GIWW right of way, and

WHEREAS, the banks of the channel have been impacted negatively by erosion due to wave action produced by shipping activities and storm surge; and

WHEREAS, specific goals of the project are: 1) effectively eliminate erosive boat/barge wake from the proposed bank line; 2) preserve the remaining high bank and allow the vegetation and marsh to recolonize; 3) preserve the remaining high bank protecting vital utilities infrastructure and aid in storm surge protection for communities and industries to the north; and, 4) create wetland-type habitats for restoration of the ecological value of this loss; and

WHEREAS, the Wildhorse Ridge project and the Cameron Gulf Shoreline Protection Project are in conjunction with the flood risk reduction priority that is consistent with the Just Imagine SWLA 50-year resiliency plan affecting both Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration & Protection Authority on this 3rd day of March 2023, that the President of the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration & Protection Authority is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to forward this Resolution of support for the “Wildhorse Ridge Shoreline Protection Project”, the “White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area Project”, and the “Cameron Gulf Shoreline Protection Project” to the Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority of Louisiana, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, Representative Ryan Bourriaque, Division of Administration Facility Planning and Control Capital Outlay Section, the Legislative Fiscal Office, the Senate Committee on Revenue & Fiscal Affairs, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Ways and Means, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Natural Resource Committee, and the House Natural Resource and Environment Committee.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of March 2023.

APPROVED:

/s/ Kay Barnett

KAY BARNETT, PRESIDENT
CHENIER PLAIN CRPA

ATTEST:

/s/ Earnestine T. Horn

EARNESTINE T. HORN, SECRETARY

President Barnett gave the Administrative Coastal Report:

- Advised that the Breeze Act, which would up the cap of money Coastal States can receive from oil, gas and wind energy from 37.5% to 50% has been passed in the House and is now in the Senate.
- Discussed the lawsuit filed by the Association of Louisiana Levee Boards concerning the FEMA 2.0 Risk Rating for Flood Insurance
- Informed the board of the upcoming Coastal Day at the Legislature on April 24, 2023
- Informed the board of the Association of Louisiana Levee Board’s Annual Workshop to be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge on December 6 – 7, 2023
- Reminded the board that Financial Disclosures are due on May 15, 2023
- Discussed the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana’s annual “Shell-A-Bratton” held on March 25, 2023, at Crescent Park in New Orleans. House Bill 255 gives restaurants a tax credit to recycle oyster shells in beneficial use projects.
- Reminded the board of the up coming State of the Coast 2023 Conference – May 31 – June 2, 2023, in New Orleans.
- Discussed the Louisiana Watershed Initiative Survey
- Discussed the Texas Ike Dike

It was moved by Sara Judson, seconded by Trevor Hair and carried that the Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration and Protection board’s Emergency Operations Plan is adopted and approved. Susan Mouton will send the plan to the appropriate entities.

The “Just Imagine Southwest Louisiana” video update for March 2023 was presented.

Jennifer Mouton, Fenstermaker and Associates, made comments on the 2023 Master Plan.

Kara Bonsall informed the board that Katie Freer, Coastal Protection Restoration Authority, would be giving an update presentation on the Cal/Sabine large scale marsh hydrologic restoration project at the Cameron Parish Police Jury Meeting on April 25, 2023, at 9:30 AM. Jennifer Mouton said the project had plenty of culverts but needed pumps.

Jennifer Mouton informed the Board of a Wildlife and Fisheries disposal site meeting to be held at their regional office in Lake Charles on May 16, 2023, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

Jennifer Mouton informed the Board of funding to Calcasieu Parish in the amount of \$9.4 million to be used for recovery efforts and \$8.9 million to be used for elevations and acquisitions.

Trevor Hair discussed investing monies in the Louisiana Management Pool, LAMP.

It was moved by Sara Judson, seconded by Kalyn Partin, and carried that the Treasurer’s Report as presented by Trevor Hair is hereby approved.

President Barnett discussed meeting with representatives from Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermilion Parish Police Juries to discuss Chenier Plain funding.

Jerry Carroll, CPRA, commented on the following:

- The Chenier Plain parishes are represented well in the State Coastal Master Plan
- Long Point Bayou Project is in construction and No Name Bayou Project will go to bid next month.
- The Cameron-Creole Project will receive \$4 million.

President Barnett announced that the next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at the Cameron Parish Police Jury Meeting Room in Cameron at 5 PM.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trevor Hair, seconded by Kalyn Partin, and carried that the meeting is adjourned.

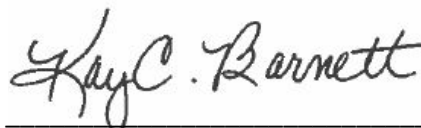
Adopted and Approved on this 18th day of April, 2023.

Attest:

Approved:



Earnestine (Tina) Horn, Secretary



Kay Barnett, President