



2015 Annual Report

Let's Get to Work!

Pictured: Work begins on the second increment of Caminada, paid for with post-spill funds.

Now more than ever, through continued transparency and public participation, Louisiana must show ourselves and the nation we have always been prepared to "make it right."

SETTLEMENT SUMMARY

- In July 2015, agreements in principle were reached between BP Exploration and Production (BPXP) and the US Government and five Gulf Coast states to settle all federal and state claims arising from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon event.
- Louisiana should recover nearly \$10 billion in fines, penalties, and damages from the largest environmental settlement in US history. This settlement, five years after the disaster, cuts short years, maybe even decades, of litigation, allowing the State to begin diligently implementing the State Master Plan and mitigating for natural resource damages.
- Louisiana has committed, and even statutorily or constitutionally dedicated, a large majority of the related funding to coastal restoration and natural resource mitigation.



damages to the thousands of fish, birds, turtles, and other natural resources injured as a result of the spill. Through an early allocation of these funds, Louisiana has already been apportioned \$300 million from this source alone. The State will also receive interest, as well as reimbursement for the considerable funds already expended for impact studies and clean-up.

Spread over the range of 15-18 years, the agreement also allows the State to leverage \$1.2 billion in criminal fines from Deepwater Horizon, directed to barrier islands and diversions through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, as well as the State's share of impending offshore royalty revenues known as GOMESA or the Landrieu bill which allocated the funds, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act.

April 2015 marked the fifth anniversary of the devastating Deepwater Horizon explosion that claimed 11 lives and caused extensive environmental and economic damages across the gulf coast. Last year, there was a huge step "to make it right."

In July 2015, agreements in principle were reached between BP Exploration and Production (BPXP) and the US Government and five gulf coast states to settle all federal and state claims arising from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon event for a total of \$18.882 billion.

Louisiana should recover nearly \$10 billion in fines, penalties, and damages from the largest environmental settlement in US history. This settlement, eliminates years, perhaps even decades, of litigation and appeals, allowing Louisiana to begin diligently implementing the State Master Plan and mitigating for natural resource damages.

Breaking the numbers down, Louisiana should receive a minimum of \$787 million through the Clean Water Act fines through the RESTORE Act. Coastal parishes will also divide \$92 million as part of the RESTORE formula. This direct RESTORE funding allocation to the parishes is separate from the millions in economic damages the parishes and other governmental entities reached agreements on as well.

The State and Parishes will also greatly benefit from \$5 billion, or 60% of the total funds allocated, in natural resource damages that will go directly to Louisiana. These projects will occur in the form of coastal or wildlife restoration projects intended to mitigate for the

Louisiana has committed nearly all of the RESTORE and natural resource-related funding to coastal restoration and mitigation of damages, even going so far as to dedicate many of these funding streams by law or constitutional amendment. Kudos to those who had the foresight to dedicate this money in advance, as well as a heartfelt thank you to those who negotiated this deal for Louisiana.

While there are many more i's to dot and t's to cross on the agreement, we have been provided a great opportunity; however, many challenges and tough decisions remain. Now more than ever, through continued transparency and public participation, Louisiana and our coastal parishes must show ourselves and the nation we have always been prepared to "make it right."



ROR Celebrates 15 Years



The birth of Restore or Retreat, Inc. (ROR) brought landowners, port commissions, parish governments, restoration advocates, levee experts, business owners and residents together for one purpose: to save our irreplaceable region.

From our inception in May 2000, ROR has advocated for such projects as freshwater and sediment diversions into the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins, marsh creation, and shoreline and barrier island restoration, just to name a few. And through it all, we have called for heightened federal and state attention to the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins through multiple planning efforts, including the State Master Plan and post-spill planning efforts like RESTORE Act and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process. Check out our website for the comprehensive timeline of where we have been and where we hope to go!



“The Barataria and Terrebonne Basins are two of the most rapidly eroding estuaries on Earth. Restore or Retreat was founded because the inhabitants of these basins share a sense of urgency far greater than most, because we look Retreat straight in the eye each day. With that, ROR’s charge is to aggressively pursue large scale projects that thwart our retreat from this bountiful region.” - Ted Falgout, Executive Committee Member

“Restore or Retreat has developed into an extremely informative organization regarding coastal issues. We are fortunate to have the bayou region well represented in Baton Rouge to assist with our needs. SCIA relies on their expertise to assist in making decisions that are critical to our well-being.” - Jane Arnette, Executive Director, South Central Industrial Association

“Restore or Retreat (ROR) is an invaluable partner to the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District (BLFWD) for several facets of our operation. ROR has been a strong voice advocating for streamlining project implementation and removing unnecessary regulatory burdens that have historically made projects unaffordable. In addition, ROR has been a watchdog speaking out against local, state, and federal legislation that has been aimed at shifting dedicated funds away from coastal restoration and hurricane protection in south Louisiana. It has been a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with ROR, and look forward to continuing that relationship as we work together toward the ultimate goal of restoring coastal Louisiana.” - Benjamin J. Malbrough, Executive Director, Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District

Remembering Rita

A panel to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Rita was held on the eve of Rita’s landfall, September 23, in Houma, LA.

ROR hosted the event with their partner Restore the Mississippi River Delta Campaign, and ROR moderated the panel, which included a mix of local and state officials who were at the center of the response to Rita or who have helped Terrebonne and Lafourche recover and advance restoration, protection, and risk reduction since the storm. Joining the panel were Terrebonne Parish President Michel Claudet, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Chairman Chip Kline, Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District Executive Director Reggie Dupre and Peg Case of the Terrebonne Readiness and Assistance Coalition (TRAC).

There was also an open house with various local and statewide organizations involved in restoration, protection, and/or risk reduction to highlight the important role NGOs played in recovery efforts, including Bayou Grace, TRAC, Audubon Louisiana, Restore the Mississippi River Campaign, and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. The event also included a field trip of the first Louisiana Lift House, the completed Bayou Little Calliou Floodgate, the Bubba Dove Floodgate, and Morganza levees.



Betty Jane Adams gets a hug from Peg Case, director of the Terrebonne Readiness and Assistance Coalition, as they discuss the construction of Adams’s new home in Chauvin after her previous house was destroyed in Hurricane Rita.

In the Press:

- Hurricane Rita served as eye-opener for Terrebonne officials
- Opinion: Lessons of Hurricane Rita have made us a bit safer
- Top 5 Stories from Last Week
- Hurricane Rita: Residents recall storm, destruction, recovery
- Hurricanes bring Morganza to Gulf Project

ROR Annual Meeting features Congressman Graves and CPRA Chair Kline

The annual gathering of stakeholders and supporters of Restore or Retreat featured the newly elected Congressman of Louisiana's 6th District, Garret Graves. Graves was also the former Chair of State's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and Governor's Assistant on Coastal Activities.

Congressman Graves was introduced by Chip Kline, who worked directly under Graves since the start of the office. Both recognized ROR's contribution to the region through advocacy efforts, and highlighted the State's tremendous accomplishments in restoring and protecting coastal Louisiana, but also cautioned much work remained.

"We were honored to have Congressman Graves deliver the keynote address at our annual membership meeting," said Simone Maloz, Executive Director. "And to have CPRA Chairman Kline participate was a huge bonus as well. Here are two coastal leaders who have elevated Louisiana's coastal program, and we look forward to working with them both more in the future to secure the commitment to restore and protect our irreplaceable region."



ROR Visits Caminada with CPRA and Parish Leaders

The second increment of Caminada, totaling nearly \$150 million, began last spring.

Restore or Retreat took over 20 leaders from CPRA, Lafourche Parish, Port Fourchon, and fellow NGOs to visit the Caminada project site. The purpose of the field trip was to view the State's successful completion of the first increment of Caminada and to view the upcoming project area for the second increment, which is paid for with criminal settlement fines via the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF).

Increment I was completed last winter, and totaled over \$70 million, including funding from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program and State surplus dollars. This work complemented a multi-million dollar project by Port Fourchon using geotubes in the project area, and a \$40 million West Belle Pass Headland CWPPRA project. Increment II is scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2016. In total, nearly \$260 million in restoration has occurred along Lafourche's shoreline, signaling its importance in protecting both Port Fourchon and the citizens of Lafourche.



New sand fencing successfully captures sand along the project footprint.



ROR
in the
Field



Coastal Check In with Chett Chiasson

We checked in with Chett Chiasson, Executive Director of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission and new Restore or Retreat Executive Committee member, to ask him a few coastal questions about where he thinks coastal Louisiana has been and where he thinks it is going.

ROR: You are a coastal Louisiana native and have worked along the coast for more than a decade-- what is the biggest change or difference you have seen?

CC: Coastal restoration and protection has been taken out of the background and placed in the forefront. It has become a primary issue on local, state, and federal levels. By far, though, I think the biggest and most impactful thing that I have seen is that real money is being spent on real, worthwhile, major projects in Louisiana. And the best part is that more is on the way.

ROR: Port Fourchon has been the leader in tying the economy to the environment. Why do you think the Port has always made this a priority, even when they don't have to?

CC: The Greater Lafourche Port Commission has always made this a priority because use of the coastal environment is part of our heritage and culture. As we all know, when people settled in the bayous of Louisiana they lived off the land and still now, the coastal marshes and estuaries provide for the livelihood and recreation of people from literally all over the world. The Port Commission understands that in order for our community to continue to prosper in the long term, we must protect our environment. We live on the premise that industry and the environment are not mutually exclusive.....they must work together. Port Fourchon is the prime example of that.

ROR: What do you think is our biggest obstacle outside of coastal Louisiana?

CC: The biggest obstacle is convincing others such as Congress, federal agencies, etc., that Louisiana's coast is of national significance. Most people don't really "get it" until they actually see it firsthand and getting them here can be a challenge. Our Louisiana delegation has done a good job in recent years bringing in Congressmen and Congresswomen from around the country and that must continue so that our story can resonate in Washington, DC.

ROR: Where do you see coastal Louisiana in 10 years?

CC: In 10 years, I see coastal Louisiana in a better position than it is today with many projects completed and even more under construction, but with more work to be done. With that being said, we will remain the "working coast" playing a valuable, strategic role in feeding and fueling our country.



ROR Visits Maurepas with CPRA and RESTORE Staff

The field trip was held in conjunction with a meeting of the Diversion Subcommittee of the Governor's Advisory Commission.

Representatives from Restore or Retreat, the Diversion Subcommittee, CPRA leadership and RESTORE Council staff attended a field trip to the Maurepas area to view the project area proposed as a RESTORE Council project for the State of Louisiana.

Restore or Retreat planned the field trip along with Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, and the trip followed a meeting of the Diversion Subcommittee of the Governor's Advisory Commission.

The Diversion Subcommittee was re-established to support the State's efforts to effectively implement freshwater and sediment diversions that are an integral part of the State's Master Plan. Through several meetings, the group has received updates, disseminated information, and identified informational and scientific needs related to the diversions included in the Plan.

At the Diversion Subcommittee meeting, ROR Executive Director Simone Maloz was named Vice Chair of the committee, and Karen Gautreaux of The Nature Conservancy was named chair.



RESTORE Council staff and Karen Gautreaux travel down Blind River on the field trip to learn more about the Maurepas project.



A cabin sits along the banks of Blind River, a proposed track of the Maurepas Diversion.

According to our friends at Louisiana Wildlife Federation, the River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp project, also known as the Maurepas diversion or the West Maurepas Diversion (and associated with Hope Canal early in its history), is designed to restore systems and processes that served the swamp before levees restrained the Mississippi River. The project has a long history in coastal restoration planning, starting with the The Louisiana Coastal Restoration Plan in 1993, the Louisiana Coast 2050 report in 1998, the Mississippi River Sediment, Nutrient and Freshwater Diversion Study in 1999, and both Coastal Master Plans in 2007 and 2012.

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has submitted Maurepas as one of their five projects to the RESTORE Council for RESTORE Act "bucket 2" money. Bucket 2 is dedicated for ecosystem restoration, and is the only bucket of RESTORE Act money (of which there are five), that the Council itself will decide how the money is spent.

Flood Risk and Resilience

In February, at the Larose Civic Center, Restore or Retreat (ROR) co-hosted a community conversation with the CPRA on flood risk and resilience. Representatives from local non-profits, LSU Ag Center, LA Sea Grant, UNO CHART, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, and CPRA were on-hand to share resources for protecting yourself and your loved ones. At the meeting, CPRA unveiled their brand new Flood Risk and Resilience Viewer, a progressive, interactive tool that shows detailed information with a click on a map of current and future flood depths and economic damages, land loss at 10 year increments, 2012 Master Plan projects (to be updated in 2017), critical infrastructure including transportation, areas of repetitive loss and social vulnerability, as well as resources to reduce flood risk. Data is available on the state, regional, parish, community, census block and down to a specific address. It could prove to be the go-to resource for our communities as we work toward a restored coast. The meeting also included a facilitated discussion on risk, safety, and viewer feedback. Check out the website at <http://coastal.la.gov/flood-risk-resilience-viewer/>.



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Plaisance Dragline and Dredging

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Ted M. Falgout and Associates

Henri Boulet, Secretary
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Dr. John Jones - Jones Dermatology

Chett Chiasson - Greater Lafourche Port Commission

Simone Theriot Maloz, Executive Director

Several Local Projects Begin

In addition to the Caminada project under construction (see page 3), one other local project is in the works, and another is already on the ground.

The Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District recently began the second, \$16 million phase of their bayou improvement project. The overall goal of the project is to increase Mississippi River water flow into Bayou Lafourche and improve water quality for over 300,000 residents of Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne and Lafourche, who depend on the bayou for drinking water. The second phase will focus on approximately eight miles of bayou improvement.



Bertucci dredge working in Bayou Lafourche.

Completed in 2011, the first phase of the dredging project included nearly six miles from Donaldsonville to Belle Rose. Funding is provided by the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, which sends money from offshore energy production back to the state for coastal projects.

There is one more project set to begin construction in 2016. Utilizing funding from the early Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process, the Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration project involves the restoration of beach, dune, and back-barrier marsh habitats at four barrier island locations in Louisiana. One of the four locations includes Caillou Lake Headlands, also known as Whiskey Island, in Terrebonne Parish. CPRA awarded the \$110 million project late last summer.

For more information and status updates on these ROR priority projects and others, check out our updated website!



Barrier island restoration is set to begin in Fall 2016.

Restore or Retreat, Inc. 2015 Membership

Platinum

National Wildlife Federation
Bayou Community Foundation
Chevron*
Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government

Gold

LOOP
ConocoPhillips
Fourchon Oilman's Association

Silver

Caillouet Land Corporation
Capital One Bank*
South Central Industrial Association
Weeks Marine

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