



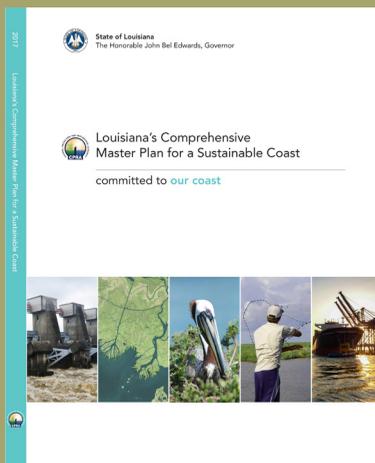
2017 ANNUAL REPORT

MASTER PLAN AND PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD



Louisiana's coastal program made great strides in 2016. Local restoration successes for the program include the second increment of restoring the Caminada Headland, Beach and Dune and improvements to Bayou Lafourche including modifications to the pump station, railroad crossing at Donaldsonville, and a second phase of dredging the waterway to increase water capacity. The State also paved the way for future projects by releasing the 2017 draft Master Plan which was released the first week of the new year.

Why Another Plan?



With a vision for the future, the same founding fathers who created the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to formalize a comprehensive approach to restoring and protecting our coast, also instructed the State's comprehensive coastal master plan be updated every five years. This allows the State to respond to changes on the ground and public input, as well as innovations in science, engineering, and policy.

With another update expected in 2017, work began almost as soon as the 2012 Master Plan received approval. Major changes from the 2012 to 2017 plan include improved science and technical analysis, incorporating new ideas and information, focus on flood risk reduction and resilience, emphasis on communities, and expedited funding scenarios and implementation timelines.

The plan also expanded outreach and public engagement, which ROR was proud to be a part of, including the development and debut of the Flood Risk and Resilience Viewer and our Community Conversations partnership.

The plan moved from draft to final after a public comment period this Spring, and moves to the legislature for approval. For more on ROR's comments to the Master Plan and for the latest version, check out coastal.la.gov/our-plan/2017-coastal-master-plan/.

NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



What a year - 2016 will go down as one of our busiest yet at ROR!

First, ROR was proud to serve on the CPRA's Framework Development Team to help advise the Master Plan. Also, to help CPRA expand their outreach, ROR took on one of our largest outreach projects to date

by hosting the Community Conversations. ROR, with local partners, hosted over 600 people in seven different coastal towns. Like any good Cajuns, we had a good conversation over a great meal, and participants left with a better understanding of their own flood risk and the plans to address those risks.

ROR was also excited to see projects move from planning to implementation. Caminada Beach is our favorite example of how the environment and economy can work together. We found a new flyover route to Wax Lake Outlet to show the amazing delta; in contrast, the route also allows a birds' eye view of the sediment and freshwater starved marshes just a few miles away. Davis Pond remains our favorite on the ground example of the benefits of freshwater into the basin, and we were fortunate to use the project to help tell our restoration story again this year.

Finally, we convened our first business workshop "Working for Our Coast." One of the main questions we get at ROR is "How can my business be a part of coastal work?" Our workshop sought to answer that question by connecting leaders from industry, state and local government, and community stakeholders to opportunities to compete for upcoming work, including a better understanding of timing and finances.

While we made great strides, much work remains—we look forward to meeting those challenges head on, and are eager to report back next year with even more successes!

Moving from Planning to Implementation

Several local restoration projects achieved major milestones in 2016. CPRA accomplished its largest restoration project to date with the substantial completion of Caminada Headland, Beach, and Dune Restoration Project. In total, the project, which was funded through the State's Coastal Impact Assistance Program, state surplus funds, and post-spill funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, restored nearly 13 miles of shoreline from Belle Pass to Elmer's Island. Using material from the remnant barrier island, Ship Shoal, over 30 miles offshore, over 8 million cubic yards of material was dredged.



Dredge working in Bayou Lafourche

Bayou Lafourche also saw the spotlight of success with culmination of several projects. In addition to dredging a second reach of the bayou, the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was able to remove a huge impediment to the flow of the bayou—the railroad bridge in Donaldsonville. BLFWD, in partnership with CPRA and Union Pacific, was able to remove this historic bottleneck in record time. Bayou Lafourche, a tributary of the Mississippi that was cut off from the river's flow, then reconnected via water pumped over the levee at Donaldsonville, also saw improvements to the pump station at the river, as well as the addition of a salinity control structure in central Lafourche.

More exciting projects are also planned for the future, including the restoration of Whiskey Island with funds from the Natural Resource Damage Assessment early funds and continued design and engineering on the Houma Navigational Canal Lock Complex, a linchpin of the Morganza to the Gulf hurricane protection system and a major hydrologic restoration feature. The HNC Lock would work in synergy with the proposed Increase Atchafalaya freshwater flows into Terrebonne.

For more on these projects and hundreds more, check out the State's interactive project map at http://cims.coastal.louisiana.gov/outreach/OPL_Full_page.html

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BIRDS' EYE VIEW OF THE COAST



The flyover route stretched over 200 miles, from the Wax Lake Outlet of the Atchafalaya to West Grand Terre in the Barataria Basin.

Galliano -- On one of most beautiful days all year, Restore or Retreat hosted a flyover for critical coastal stakeholders. ROR has been working with a fellow non-profit organization, SouthWings, to provide the impressive birds' eye view of our disappearing coast. Past flights have departed from New Orleans' Lakefront Airport and have included views of the Mississippi River, Birds' Foot Delta, and protection systems surrounding New Orleans, as well as the Davis Pond freshwater diversion in St. Charles Parish.

The late November flyover took a different route, however. The group departed from the South Lafourche Leonard Miller, Jr. Airport, which was acquired by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission in 2001.

Louisiana Senate Natural Resources Chairman Norby Chabert was joined by Representatives Stuart Bishop and Chris Leopold, chair and vice-chair of the House Natural Resources Committee respectively, as well as, Tanner Johnson of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Representative Jerome Zeringue served as a co-host and guide for the day, which also included a beach and waterfront tour of Port Fourchon. The group was briefed by Simone Maloz of ROR and David Muth of Restore the Mississippi River Delta prior to their departure on the flight route, which included 24 critical projects in the State's Master Plan, and also previewed projects included in the State's impending 2017 revision to the Master Plan.

ROR HOSTS BUSINESS WORKSHOP AND ANNUAL MEETING



ROR hosted CPRA Chairman Johnny Bradberry as the keynote speaker for their annual membership luncheon in May, where he briefed the lunch crowd with goals and his vision for CPRA's future.

On the same day, ROR also convened a business workshop called "Working for Our Coast" to connect leaders from industry, state and local government, community organizations, and stakeholders with opportunities to compete for upcoming work to restore and protect our coast.

Morning panel discussions included updates on the State's Annual Plan and 2017 Master Plan, and "How to do Business with the CPRA." The morning also included the "State of the Water Management Sector" and how these restoration opportunities are providing great economic benefits to our communities.

Other speakers and panelists included Dr. Bruce Murphy of Nicholls, CPRA project managers, coastal industry leaders, and senior officials from regional levee and freshwater districts, as well as Lafourche and Terrebonne Parish governments, to hear about their upcoming work on levees, restoration and infrastructure.

The afternoon included sessions on Master Plan modelling, Interactive Project Map and Flood Risk and Resilience Viewer. The Louisiana PTAC, SLEC, and SBDC were also on hand to discuss topics like bonding, financing, business initiatives offered, small businesses assistance, and public bid law and contracting. Participants even acquired the continuing education requirements for Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board, including the mandatory one hour PDH in Ethics. For presentations from the workshop, please visit the ROR website at www.restoreoretreat.org.

IN THE FIELD



ROR visited the Davis Pond freshwater diversion with staff from the CPRA and media. Davis Pond is situated upriver from New Orleans on the west bank of the river and is bringing a degraded ecosystem back to life. The diversion structure was intended to add fresh water to the outfall area for salinity control. However, while the ecosystem is reviving as intended, the fine sediment in the upper water column is building land substantial enough to support tree growth. Future diversion structures in the Coastal Master Plan will be designed to capture sand and mineral sediment in the lower water column for even more substantial land building.



St. Bernard Parish President Guy McInnis prepares to take to the skies with David Muth of the Restore the MS River Delta Coalition as part of a coastal flyover hosted by ROR.



Restore or Retreat was pleased to present at the 14th Annual Mayor's Conference in Grand Isle in April. ROR followed CPRA Chairman Bradberry and joined presenters from the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District and DOTD.



ROR participated in a panel discussion for the "Natural Defenses in Action" report in Washington, DC. The report highlights the important role that natural and nature-based approaches can play in reducing the mounting risks to our communities, including a case study of restoration for the Barataria Basin.



ROR was able to address coastal issues at the joint Thibodaux and Lafourche Chambers' Senate Forum held at Nicholls.



ROR's John Lombardo and Simone Maloz accept a check from Stephen Peltier of the Bayou Community Foundation to support ROR's work to host 2017 Coastal Master Plan outreach meetings.



Caminada Headlands, Beach and Dune restoration provides a critical first line of defense for Port Fourchon and the thousands of people living in Lafourche Parish. The project also features critical nesting habitat to migratory birds and recreational opportunities at Elmer's Island. ROR hosted a tour and discussion on the project with several other NGOs and the Port with CPRA Project Manager Brad Miller

COASTAL LOUISIANA

MAKING STRIDES

2016 WAS A BANNER YEAR FOR COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION IN LOUISIANA, BUT MUCH WORK REMAINS

5.5 MILLION CUBIC YARDS OF SAND ON CAM II

WITH RESTORATION OF THE FINAL REACH ON THE EASTERN END OF THE HEADLANDS, CPRA ACCOMPLISHED ITS LARGEST RESTORATION PROJECT TO DATE.

200,000,000

TONS OF VALUABLE SEDIMENT PASSING BY BELLE CHASSE, LOUISIANA AND MOST OFF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

STATISTIC COURTESY OF RESTORE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA

THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS IN THE FALL, ROR AND CPRA HOSTED OVER

600

DIVERSE AND ENGAGED PARTICIPANTS WHO LEARNED MORE ABOUT THE MASTER PLAN IN THEIR COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Nearly 600 residents participated in seven towns across the coast. CPRA partnered with ROR to host a series of fall outreach meetings about the State's 2017 Comprehensive Coastal Master Plan. The purpose of these meetings was to update the residents on the Master Plan process prior to the plan's release in January, but also receive valuable input and feedback from citizens and stakeholders.

The Community Conversations weren't your usual "public meeting." The meetings were held in the evening, beginning with a 5pm Open House, and local organizations and groups were enlisted to help spread the word. A dinner sponsored by Restore or Retreat was served, followed by a short presentation from CPRA. Then there were facilitated small group discussions, where feedback was captured and brought back to CPRA to help inform their plan.



Bren Haase of the CPRA talks to residents in Dulac about potential projects in the 2017 Master Plan.



Grants from the Greater New Orleans Foundation's Thriving Communities program and the Bayou Community Foundation were instrumental in supporting the Community Conversations.

Q&A WITH WATER INSTITUTE CEO JUSTIN EHRENWERTH



ROR: What excites you about leading the Water Institute of the Gulf?

JE: It's an exciting time in coastal Louisiana and around the Gulf of Mexico. With penalties from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill starting to flow, we have the opportunity to fund coastal solutions that have been generated through decades of research and planning. The Water Institute is an applied research institution which means that we're in the "solutions business" – bringing the best science in the world to decision-makers around the coast. I wake up every day excited to work with brilliant scientists who are all dedicated to saving our coast and protecting our communities. It's also exciting to explore opportunities to take the science and solutions we're generating in Louisiana to help our friends across the Gulf and around the world who also struggle with sea-level rise and subsidence.

ROR: What is the biggest difference from your "old" job to your "new" job?

JE: As the first Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, I was responsible for establishing the newest federal agency in the government with the express purpose of using Deepwater Horizon oil spill penalty dollars to restore the ecosystem and economy of the Gulf. My task was to find common ground between five governors and the heads of six federal agencies in allocating funds – it wasn't easy! I'm very proud of the consensus we formed at the Council and I see a lot of parallels to my new job. In order to tackle the challenges facing our coast, we need to bring everyone together – state and federal government, universities, NGOs, private sector firms, and everyone else who cares about our future. I enjoy the challenge of bringing good people together to solve complicated problems. The Institute is actively collaborating with all the sectors I just mentioned. It's the only way we'll be successful.

Find More Q&A on ROR's website www.restoreorretreat.org

ROR HIRES NEW OUTREACH COORDINATOR



Restore or Retreat is pleased to announce the addition of Victoria Sagrera of Abbeville as Special Projects Coordinator for the regional coastal advocacy group.

Sagrera grew up in Vermilion Parish, just north of Intracoastal City and south of Abbeville, in an area locally known as Mouton Cove or Big Woods. Her family's lifestyle, like most along the coast, was dependent upon the land, the coast, and its natural resources.

Sagrera, a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has worked in different realms of the coastal industry for the last six years. While attending UL of Lafayette, Sagrera worked as a Helicopter Underwater Egress Training (HUET) Rescue Scuba Diver at Marine Survival Training Center and Assistant Associate at Gulf Coast Agricultural Associates, both in Lafayette, La. Additionally, Sagrera

served as President, Vice-President, and Treasurer of the UL at Lafayette's Biology Society. After receiving a bachelor's degree concentrated in natural sciences, Sagrera worked as the Public Outreach Intern for Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). Sagrera is also an active member of the community with a passion for volunteering; she is a member of the Junior Auxiliary of Abbeville and board member of the Louisiana Cattle Festival.

Due to her previous employment and agriculturally-rooted, coastal upbringing, Sagrera has developed a strong sense of devotion for coastal advocacy and community resilience. These combined experiences has strengthened her deep appreciation and connection to improving the quality of our coast.

Sagrera says, "The term 'working coast' could not be more true for our state, especially when you come from a family whose livelihood solely relied upon the health of our coast, wetlands, and community ties. Throughout the years, I have personally witnessed the monumental changes our wetlands and coast have undergone which fuel the direct connection I have to advocating for our coast."

ROR PARTICIPATES IN WHITE HOUSE FORUM ON SMART FINANCING FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE



Deputy Mayor Jeff Hebert (center) served on a panel at the White House Forum

From the White House blog:

Across the country, individuals, communities, businesses, and governments are taking action to improve their ability to withstand and recover quickly from extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and other impacts of climate change. Disaster mitigation activities include adopting stronger building codes, restoring floodplains and streams, and retrofitting roofs to hurricane-resistant standards -- all of which help to reduce the loss of life and property and enable communities to recover more quickly in the aftermath of a disaster.

Investing in disaster mitigation and resilience before an extreme event occurs can provide significant cost-savings for homeowners, local communities, the private sector, and the Federal government... To advance disaster resilience and mitigation efforts, government and private-sector organizations are developing innovative financing mechanisms that reduce consumer costs and incentivize pre-disaster mitigation activities. That's why the White House hosted a Forum on Smart Finance for Disaster Resilience to highlight innovations in disaster mitigation and resilience finance, including emerging public-private collaborations with banking, insurance, and financial services sectors.

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