



2017 Annual Report

Gaining Ground: Coastal Efforts Move Forward

Louisiana Legislature approves 2017 Louisiana Coastal Master Plan

Louisiana's State Legislature passed SCR1, a resolution approving the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, on June 2, 2017. Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast includes 124 projects that build or maintain more than 800 square miles of land and reduce expected damage by \$8.3 billion annually by year 50, which equates to more than \$150 billion over the next 50 years, and projects are expected to pay for themselves three times over the course of implementing the plan. The diversity of projects in the plan reflects the need to construct projects that build land and reduce risk in the near term, while also investing in projects like sediment diversions and structural protection projects that provide long-term benefits.

Diversions from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers also remain a foundational part of the overall restoration strategy. As part of the near term solution, more than two thirds of the investment in restoration is directed to marsh creation projects, while structural protection projects receive the largest investment of risk reduction funds. A much more developed and defined "non structural" program is included, which recommends potential projects such as elevating homes and flood-proofing businesses in areas that are at risk or will become most at risk in future decades.

Equal funding of \$25 billion is allocated to restoration and risk reduction projects, and project selection was based on a project's effectiveness in providing near- and long-term land area or risk reduction benefits.

"One issue that has remained outside of partisan politics is our coastal master plan. Citizens across Louisiana, from Bastrop to Cameron and Shreveport to Chalmette, all share a similar commitment to invest wisely in our coast because it is critical to our economy and our culture. It's a tremendous privilege to champion the 2017 Coastal Master Plan this session and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to approve this plan so that we can continue our critical work to protect and restore our coast."

~ Senator Blade Morrish

While the 2017 Coastal Master Plan looks out over 50 years and outlines the best projects to implement, building them requires funding, engineering and design, and environmental and feasibility assessments. The CPRA's Annual Plan, which is approved by the Louisiana Legislature, is a funding request for expenditures in the upcoming fiscal year FOR Master Plan projects in the process of moving toward construction.

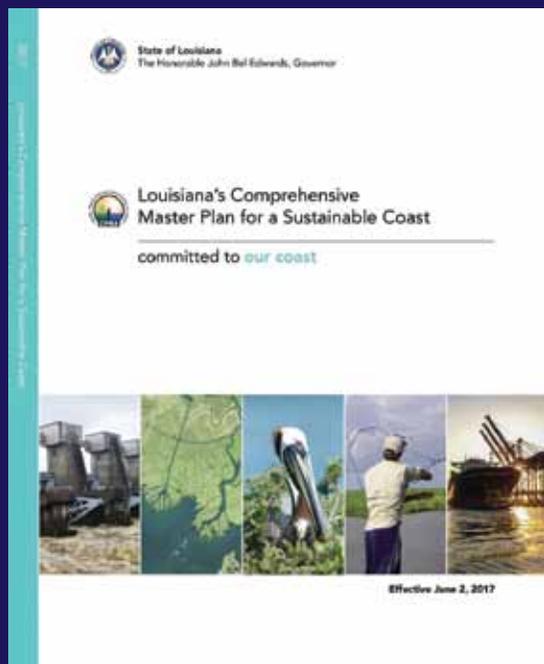
For the state's 2018 fiscal year (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018) CPRA plans to implement \$664 million worth of restoration and protection projects and initiatives. This includes \$383 million for construction projects, \$136.8 million for planning, engineering and design of projects to be built in coming years, \$47.2 million for operations, maintenance and monitoring of previously constructed projects, \$45.9 million for ongoing programs and initiatives, and \$31 million for operating costs.

"With more projects working their way toward construction, and with more revenue coming as a result of the BP oil spill, we expect expenditures to top \$1 billion by fiscal year 2020," CPRA Executive Director Ellis reported to the CPRA Board.

Sediment diversions continue to progress



One of the most critical things we can do to save our disappearing coast is to reconnect the river to its wetlands and re-establish the natural processes that built the Mississippi River Delta. A powerful tool to accomplish this task is sediment diversions. One of the most important restoration projects in the Coastal Master Plan is the Mid-



Barataria Sediment Diversion. The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion will reconnect the Mississippi River with nearby wetlands and deliver sediment, nutrients and fresh water to build and maintain tens of thousands of acres of land over time in Louisiana's Barataria Basin. The situation is dire - without action, the Barataria Basin could lose an additional 550 square miles of land in the next 50 years.

The NEPA federal process that precedes the potential construction of a sediment diversion began with scoping meetings to allow public participation; the meetings were held in Lafitte, Belle Chasse, and Port Sulphur. Over 300 people attended the public scoping meetings of the Mid-Barataria Diversion, and over 800 comments were submitted to urge to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite the permitting process for an earlier construction start date. A draft Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2018.

On January 26, 2018, Johnny Bradberry, CPRA Chairman, in addition to federal partners, signed a MOU committing to a two-year federal permitting timeline for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. From CPRA – The MOU builds on the Trump Administration's Executive Order 13807 and Governor Edwards' request to the White House Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council. In addition to the two-year timetable, the MOU also establishes a framework for Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Authorization Process in accordance with the guidance from the Trump.

"CPRA has been pushing for an expedited permitting timeframe since day one of this administration," said CPRA Board Chairman Bradberry. "CPRA knows that we have to do big things to change the trajectory of our coast and permitting and constructing Mid-Barataria has long been seen as the first big test of that agenda. Today, this MOU signals that the federal regulatory agencies are going to be working with us to implement this project on an expedited timeline. We couldn't be happier," said Chairman Bradberry.

ROR HELPS TO WELCOME DOI SECRETARY ZINKE

Interior Secretary Zinke learns about Louisiana's coastal restoration and energy relationship

Restore or Retreat was honored with the invitation to be a part of U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's lunch discussion amid a tour of southeast coastal Louisiana. Secretary Zinke, joined by Senator Cassidy and Congressman Graves, was able to learn more of the Administration's priorities to increase development of U.S. offshore energy resources, which through GOMESA, is also tied to coastal restoration, natural resource conservation, and flood protection in Louisiana. While the lunch discussion was held at the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center in the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Thibodaux, Sec. Zinke's day-long tour also included a morning meeting at the Center for Coastal and Deltaic Solutions, which houses the Water Institute of the Gulf in Baton Rouge, and an airboat tour of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion.

In a news release, Cassidy's staff stated that the discussions were centered around the State's Coastal Master Plan, the 50-year, \$50 billion program of coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects in response to Louisiana's land loss, "and the national economic importance of coastal restoration and protection as a vital part of U.S. energy dominance."



David Muth and Chett Chiasson, members of ROR Board of Directors, speaking with U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Restore or Retreat Partners with CPRA on Coastal Restoration Financing Initiative

Report will provide a framework for efficiently funding critical restoration projects



Restore or Retreat (ROR) has announced a partnership with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to source expertise in areas of financing and economics to identify strategies to maximize the impact of near-term revenue streams for Coastal Master Plan projects. The project aims to create a financing structure for several specific

Master Plan projects and develop repayment strategies from existing committed sources of revenue, as well as project economic benefits to the state and impacted communities by advancing restoration.

Over the next 15 years, billions of dollars will be available for coastal protection and restoration, largely from the Deepwater Horizon global settlement as well as the increase in payments under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). As revenue sources vary greatly in terms of specific requirements and timelines, CPRA is welcoming assistance in identifying opportunities to align project implementation schedules with appropriate revenue streams and, if advisable, financial instruments like bonds.

“The CPRA has done a tremendous job understanding the engineering challenges of the land loss crisis and devising a plan to address that crisis in the most strategic and sustainable way,” said Restore or Retreat Executive Director Simone Maloz. “On the heels of the passage of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, we want to transition from planning to large-scale implementation. To do that successfully, it will take the best utilization of financial instruments and economics to finance the nation’s largest ecosystem restoration effort. For that reason, this project is a critical first step to success.”

The Governor’s Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities, Johnny Bradberry, concurred, “Given our current set of project priorities, we very well may be able to pay as we go. However, if we can achieve efficiencies from a land building or flood protection point of view by utilizing traditional bonds or newer financial options, we need to be in a position to understand those benefits.”

Members of the CPR Financing Corporation welcomed this project as a crucial step forward. “Before the CPR Financing Corporation can approach the bond market, the State of Louisiana must first recommend that it is the appropriate course of action given its revenue streams and its project schedules,” said Chett Chiasson, CPR Financing Corporation member and Executive Director of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission. “This type of financial expertise is just what the State needs to make the most out of the funding they have available.”

ROR sought Statements of Interest and Qualifications (SIQ) from financial services firms, consultant teams with financial expertise, and research institutions with finance experience. Ten teams, both impressive and diverse, with over 30 different firms and experts submitted, and the field was narrowed down to four to submit full proposals.

The team of Ernst & Young Infrastructure Advisors, LLC was selected, and has already begun work on the report, which is expected late Spring/early Summer of 2018.

Additionally, CPRA and ROR will also partner on a separate, but related report, to develop a forecast of revenues Louisiana can expect to receive through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) in support of the state’s long term effort to finance the state’s Coastal Master Plan. LSU Economic & Policy Research Group will conduct that work.

At the December 2017 CPRA meeting, as a show of continued support, the CPRA board passed a motion of support for ROR’s partnership with CPRA to explore both traditional and innovative financing to leverage and maximize funds available to restore and protect our coast.



What happens when a Theriot and an Hebert walk into a radio station? Listen to find out! Simone Theriot Maloz, ROR Executive Director and Jacques Hebert, Restore the Mississippi River Delta Campaign Communications Director, have partnered to co-host a weekly radio show, “Delta Dispatches.” Delta Dispatches discusses Louisiana’s coast, its people, wildlife and jobs, and why restoring matters. To keep the public engaged and informed, Maloz and Hebert cover discussions on important aspects of coastal restoration, the latest coastal news and events, interviews with relevant experts, business and community leaders, and more. You can catch Delta Dispatches every Thursday from 5:00 - 6:00 pm on WGSO 990AM or subscribe and download from Apple iTunes, Google Play, or www.deltadispatches.org.





Joni Tuck, Greater Lafourche Port Commission External Relations Manager, providing insight to friends of Restore or Retreat during a boat tour of port facilities. ROR partners with Port Fourchon to exhibit the greatly beneficial, unique and synergistic relationship that can cohesively exist between industry and environment.



Coastal Connections is an opportunity for residents to meet with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) staff in an informal setting to ask questions, pick up educational material, and provide feedback. ROR hosted the bayou region's Coastal Connections event, where CPRA staff were readily available to discuss the Mid-Barataria and Mid-Breton Sediment Diversions - projects that will reconnect the Mississippi River to its basin, to rebuild and sustain its wetlands. The event was held at Moran's Marina in Port Fourchon.

Simone Maloz welcoming Congressman Steve Scalise back to the bayou region during the South Central Industrial Association's monthly membership luncheon.



Restore or Retreat was among many who participated in Terrebonne Parish Coastal Day, where residents had the opportunity to learn about levees and floodgates, structure elevations, and marsh and barrier island restoration. While ROR participated in the planning of the event and presented an information table, various coastal-related businesses displayed tools and equipment, educational information, and publications. The event concluded with an expert panel discussion.





ROR attended the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)'s Dedication Ceremony, which highlighted seven southeast Louisiana projects, one being the Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, Phase 3 (BA-27c) project in Lafourche parish. Shown is a site field trip to Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation project.

Q&A with Dr. Jay Clune

We checked in with Dr. Jay Clune, Nicholls State University President, on his new position as president of his alma mater and his return to our region.

ROR: As the first alumni to lead Nicholls State University, what is the greatest goal you've set for yourself as President of a coastal-situated university?

JC: Nicholls State University is Louisiana's coastal university, and we won't retreat from the challenge of coastal land loss. Our past, present and future are inextricably tied to the coast. That's why we partner with organizations like Restore or Retreat and together we will restore and reclaim our working coast for future generations. My greatest goal is to develop a 25-year campus master plan to ensure that we set this University as the driving force of intellectual, economic and cultural development for the foreseeable future and beyond.

ROR: Being a Houma native, what are the biggest changes you've seen now having returned to the area?

JC: As a former fisherman and hunter, the biggest change that I've seen is in our environment. What has remained the same, and what gives me great optimism, is the resiliency and adaptability of the people of South Louisiana.

ROR: . Having spent many in-class hours with students as a previous professor, what do you think needs to be done to involve our younger generations in the fight of our coastal crisis?

JC: We need what I've heard LUMCON Executive Director, Craig McClain, describe as "ocean optimism." We need to talk about the opportunities coming with restoration and reclamation of our coast. The ideas that will save our coasts - ideas we haven't imagined - will come from our current and future Colonels.

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

JC: Thriving, with Nicholls State University as the epicenter of economic and environmental change.

ROR: What are you looking forward to most as Nicholls State University President?

JC: Seeing improved versions of Ellender Memorial Library and Donald G. Bollinger Student Union filled with students (and meeting Archie Manning at the Manning Passing Academy).



COASTAL 101

In April 2017, Restore or Retreat hosted six U.S. congressional staffers to see Louisiana's severe coastal land loss, from both a ground level and bird's eye view, in order to give them a firsthand perspective of issues their offices may be handling. With the help of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and Port Fourchon, ROR was able to plan a two-day trip consisting of several tours and guest speakers.

The trip began with an airboat tour of Davis Pond, a freshwater diversion impacting the Barataria Basin, located in St. Charles Parish. Day two began with a fly over of the coast, departing from New Orleans and landing in Galliano; the participants were then bussed to Port Fourchon to continue the tours. After a briefing on Port Fourchon, the staffers went on a boat tour to see port operations, including the many different industry tenants and their equipment, as well as ways that Port Fourchon is leading in the Gulf energy industry. The final stop of the trip was a visit to the \$240+ million Caminada Headlands beach restoration project, where the staffers were able to see the synergistic relationship between environment and economy/industry. Throughout the duration of the trip, the congressional staffers were able to hear from an array of different speakers, including those from CPRA, Restore the Mississippi River Delta coalition, and Greater Lafourche Port Commission. While many of the staffers were familiar with these issues, the opportunity for them to visit these sites allow for heightened knowledge and extended conversations.

Similarly, another Coastal 101 trip was held in July, primarily at Port Fourchon, to learn about ongoing coastal restoration efforts in the Mississippi River Delta and their economic and environmental benefits to oil and gas service hubs like Port Fourchon and the American energy industry that it services. Discussions throughout the day included information on the latest update of the Coastal Master Plan, quick and easy resources to find restoration and protection project information in the staffers' districts, and a coastal expert panel. Another trip to Caminada Headlands beach restoration project was held for the staffers to view the state's largest project to date, adjacent to Port Fourchon. The day concluded with attendance to the Fourchon Oilman's Association Fishing Rodeo Opening Reception. Connecting the dots between coastal and industry is crucial to restoring and preserving Louisiana's working coast.

Congressional staffers gather to view core samples, taken by CPRA staff, during an air boat tour of Davis Pond Diversion as part of ROR's Coastal 101 program



On beachfront after touring Port Fourchon



Ready to board their flight to have a bird's eye view of Louisiana's southeast coast



Caminada Cognizance

Caminada Headlands Ribbon Cutting and Caminada Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project

CAMINADA HEADLANDS RIBBON CUTTING - The long-awaited completion of Caminada Headlands, was commemorated on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, with an official ribbon cutting ceremony on the beachfront of the project. Caminada Headlands is the largest state coastal ecosystem restoration project to date, encompassing a 13-mile stretch of sandy beach between Bayou Lafourche and slightly west of Grand Isle at Caminada Pass. While acting as a first line of defense on Elmer's Island, the refuge will also be a sanctuary for birds, both resident and migratory, and a recreational area for locals and visitors of the area.



CAMINADA PROJECT UPDATE - Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation: This projects was approved by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Task Force to receive Phase II Construction funding. The project will receive \$28.7 million to create or nourish 395 acres of back barrier marsh by pumping sediment from an offshore borrow site and create a platform on which the beach and dune area along the southern shoreline can migrate northward. This migration would allow for the strengthening of the shoreline to protect interior wetlands, infrastructure of Port Fourchon and La 1, as well as the lower Lafourche levee system. The project is in an area south of Louisiana 1 between Belle Pass and Caminada Pass in Lafourche Parish and is expected to begin construction early spring of 2019.



Governor Edwards cuts the ribbon marking the completion of the Caminada Headlands Beach and Dune Restoration. This CPRA project expands over 13 miles of beachfront and is currently the largest completed project by the state to date.

BIG MEMBER OF THE MONTH - Restore or Retreat had the pleasure of being named the Bayou Industrial Group's September Member of the Month in 2017. Bayou Industrial Group (BIG) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization committed to the growth and sustainability of business and industry in the Bayou Region of southeast Louisiana. Founded in 1973, BIG has a strong history of supporting infrastructure, coastal restoration and protection, education,

economic development, and public health and safety initiatives in our communities. ROR greatly appreciated the recognition of our coastal efforts to save this region's coast, community, and culture from BIG, community members, as well as colleagues and friends.



ROR Executive Committee

Mike Plaisance, President

Plaisance Dragline and Dredging

Chett Chiasson, Vice-President

Greater Lafourche Port Commission

Henri Boulet, Secretary – LA 1 Coalition

Robert Naquin, Treasurer – Latter and Blum

Timothy Allen – Apache Louisiana Minerals

Charlotte Bollinger – Bollinger Shipyards

C. Berwick Duval II

Duval, Funderburk, Sundberry, Lovell & Watkins

David Duplantis – Duplantis Design Group

Staff

Simone Theriot Maloz, Executive Director

Victoria Sagrera, Special Projects Coordinator

NICHOLLS FAMILY DAY - Restore or Retreat celebrated the Nicholls State University Colonels and our coast during NSU's 2017 Family Day event on September 16. Located right outside of John L. Guidry Stadium, a variety of campus groups, student organizations, and community members gathered to offer kid-oriented activities for a family-friendly tailgate, prior to a successful Nicholls football defeat over Prairie View. ROR drew a lot of attention with our handouts of stadium fans, hats, publications, NSU cups, cupcakes, and "Colonels Love Our Coast" stickers among many other items. ROR loves supporting and being a part of Nicholls State University--Geaux Colonels!!



Restore or Retreat, Inc. 2017 Membership

Platinum

Walton Family Foundation
BHP
National Wildlife Federation
Greater New Orleans Foundation
Chevron
Greater Lafourche Port Commission*
Peltier Foundation

Gold

South Central Industrial Association
LOOP
ConocoPhillips

Silver

Capital One Bank
Bollinger Shipyards*

Bronze

Duplantis Design Group, P.C.*
Entergy
Apache Louisiana Minerals, Inc.*
The Bollinger Family Foundation
The Allan Company
Thibodaux Regional Medical Center
The Holt Family Foundation
James R. Peltier
Wm. Clifford Smith*

Associates

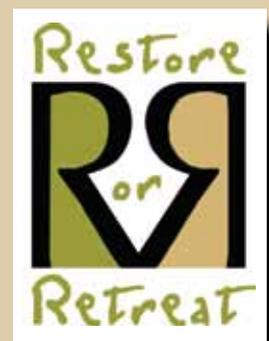
Buquet Distributing Company, Inc.*
RAMCO, LLC
South Louisiana Bank*
Danos*
Synergy Bank*
Plaisance Oilfield Services, Inc.
Williams, Inc.
JP Morgan Chase
John Deere Thibodaux, Inc.
Lori Leblanc LLC
Morgan Stanley
North Lafourche Conservation,
Levee and Drainage District
Phylway Construction, LLC
South Lafourche Levee District
Ted M. Falgout & Associates, LLC*
Paul's Insurance Agency
Bluewater Rubber & Gasket, Co.

Norman Duplantis
Southern Guard Service, Inc.
Terminix Pest Control
Angelette-Picciola, LLC*
Gretchen Caillouette
J. Wayne Plaisance, Inc.
LA 1 Coalition, Inc.*
Michel H. Claudet, LLC
Picciola & Associates, Inc.
South Louisiana Economic Council
Triche-Doverspike Financial
Group, Inc.
Halliburton
Bourgeois Bennett, LLC
Charles C. Theriot & Company
Chiasson Eye Care Center
C-K Associates, LLC
Providence/GSE Associates
Internal Medicine Associates*
James Callahan
Joseph T. Butler, Jr.
Pine Bluff Sand & Gravel Company
Raceland Raw Sugar, LLC
Rebstock Supply Co., Inc.
Rig-Chem, Inc.
Seafood Shed Inc.
Thomassie Construction
David Muth
Lafourche Parish Government
Picciola Land Company, LLC
Ricky Smith
Julianna Wiegand
Caillouet Land LLC
Edward Wisner Donation
Advisory Committee
Gaubert Oil Co., Inc.
George Diedrich III
Hunt, Guillot, & Associates LLC
Neil J. Maki, MD
Terrebonne Levee & Conservation
District
Vision Communications
Bayou Industrial Group
Sidney Triche, New York Life*
Duval, Funderbunk, Sundbery,
Lovell & Watkins
Dr. Monroe Howell, DDS
Lafourche Chamber of Commerce

Friends

Lafourche Parish Assessor,
Wendy Thibodeaux*
Tara Richard
Samantha Carter
Royal Engineers & Consultants, LLC
Neil Angelette
Joni Tuck
Janice Zitzmann
Helen Rose Patterson
Deanna Lafont
Gretchen Caillouet
Jane L. Arnette
Paula Rome
Quenton Fontenot
Stephen Peliter
Charlotte Randolph Consultants
Crosby Tugs, LLC
David Cavell
Manson Construction Company
Moffatt and Nichol
Montco
Katherine Falls
Kristine Russell
Mary Elise Schlesinger
Delta Coast Consultants, LLC
Century 21 Acadia Realty
Friends of Bayou Lafourche
Marguerite Knight*

**Donors for both Annual Membership
and Rendezvous fundraiser*



Restore or Retreat, Inc.
P.O. Box 2048-NSU
Thibodaux, LA 70310

Phone: (985) 448-4485
Fax: (985) 448-4486

www.RestoreOrRetreat.org

Connect with ROR

