

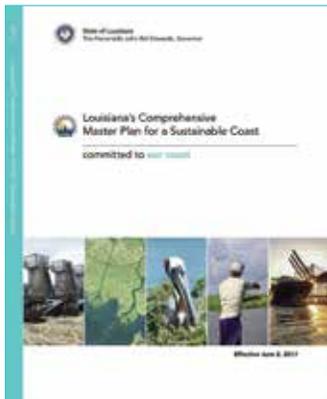


2018 Annual Report

Turning the Tide: Ramping up from Planning to Implementation of Louisiana's coastal program

Increasing Awareness and Access Ahead of Implementation

Restore or Retreat Partners with CPRA and State Library to Advance Coastal Literacy



In order to boost awareness to Louisiana's coastal restoration and protection efforts, Restore or Retreat, in partnership with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and the State Library of Louisiana, have provided the 2017 Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast to all 340 public libraries in the state, distributed by the State Library's delivery service at no additional cost to taxpayers. This partnership is a perfect example of how groups at multiple levels -- state, parish and non-profit -- can work together towards a common goal on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana.

"The 2017 Coastal Master Plan recommends a diversity of projects to build land and reduce flood risk in order to balance short-term needs with long-term goals," said Governor John Bel Edwards. "It is our hope that all Louisiana residents, those who live on the coast as well as inland areas, can use the information provided to their local public library to better prepare their families and communities for a changing coastal Louisiana landscape."

Available for the public to "check out" from their library, each coastal kit comes at no-cost to the library and includes hard and digital copies of the plan, a letter of support each from Governor John Bel Edwards and State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton, information on the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration

Act (CWPPRA) and a large format map of Coastal Master Plan projects, along with a dozen additional resources from CPRA, such as project suggestions and teaching tools for teachers and librarians, parish-specific information and translations of the Coastal Master Plan's Executive Summary in French, Spanish and Vietnamese.

"There are few issues as important to the future of our state as coastal land loss. Every citizen in the State of Louisiana should have access to the plan that outlines how the State is boldly confronting the future environmental challenges it faces," said Simone Maloz, Executive Director of Restore or Retreat. "The science-based, publicly-informed Coastal Master Plan is an investment in restoring and protecting our coastal ecosystems to benefit the people, industries and wildlife that depend on the coast. This plan and the projects being implemented by CPRA help create a stronger future for our entire state and nation, not just those living along our coast."

The project was made possible through a grant from the Greater New Orleans Foundation Thriving Coastal Communities Initiative.



CPRA has planned travelling Master Plan exhibits in libraries across the state.

ROR Hosts Coastal Workforce Event for Local Students

A coast-centric education event held in the bayou region, linking community to coast.



Terrebonne Parish 11th graders learned about various wetland equipment, including airboats, during ROR's Working for Our Coast event.



Nicholls Geomatics Department displayed and demonstrated frequently used field equipment.



Jessie Whittington of Weeks Marine discussed a career in coastal construction and maritime services.

Restore or Retreat hosted the inaugural Working for Our Coast event, where Terrebonne Parish 11th graders visited Fletcher Technical Community College to explore coastal careers.

Thanks to a grant from Chevron, nearly 900 students from all four Terrebonne Parish public high schools were transported to Fletcher's main campus during fall break. After a video welcome by Terrebonne Parish President Gordon Dove and introduction to the coast, students heard from several guest speakers on coastal careers such as engineering, construction, biology, government, geomatics and journalism. Lunch was provided through a donation of the Callais Family Fund.

Students were also able to visit outside tables supported by area businesses and local organizations like the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program, as well as take part in demonstrations on the main lawn by Nicholls Geomatics program before heading back to school.

"In our area, people of all ages know how important it is to restore and protect our coast," said Simone Maloz, Executive Director of Restore or Retreat. "We have a tremendous opportunity in the very near future to build major restoration and protection projects here in the Bayou Region, and there is no better workforce to build these projects than the generation that could benefit the most from this work. We are grateful for the support of our sponsor Chevron, as well as Fletcher and Terrebonne Parish schools, that allowed us to help the up and coming generation of coastal workers understand the opportunities ahead."

Restore or Retreat Dives into Coastal Finance

ROR Seeks to Maximize Coastal Funding with Finance Report

Louisiana has been entrusted with the financial resources, around \$10 billion over the next 15 years, to implement a suite of priority projects in its \$50 billion, 50 year Coastal Master Plan. The majority of the funds, nearly \$8 billion starting in 2010, have resulted from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and that money comes with a complex web of eligibility, contingencies, and process approvals. Also coming online at the same time is Louisiana's fair share of offshore royalty revenues of the oil and gas development off of our coast, which could total approximately \$100 million annually, also known as GOMESA or Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act.

Knowing the impact of these funding streams coming online but also its limited nature, in 2017, ROR announced a partnership with Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to source expertise in areas of financing and economics to identify strategies to maximize the impact of these near-term revenue streams for Coastal Master Plan projects. The project aimed to create a financing structure for several types of Master Plan projects, develop repayment strategies from existing committed sources of revenue, as well as project economic benefits to the state and impacted communities by advancing restoration. Ernst & Young Infrastructure Advisors (EYIA) was selected from a highly qualified pool of proposals for the task, and has presented to the CPRA Finance Working Group, Governor's Advisory Commission, CPRA Leadership and Louisiana's Department of Administration, which chairs the Coastal Protection and Restoration Financing Corporation.

At the end of 2018, EYIA has delivered a set of robust recommendations to the State and ROR. An executive summary has been prepared as well, and ROR is eager to begin the next phase in the process with both the State and other partners.

ROR Celebrates Coastal Day at the Louisiana Legislature

The annual event draws coastal stakeholders, businesses and organizations to the State Capitol to talk coast.

Coastal Day at the Louisiana Legislature has become an annual event, and this year's event highlighted progress with the Governor and coastal legislators.

The day kicked off with a panel centered on coastal funding organized by Restore or Retreat, and featured Robin Barnes of GNO Inc., Stephen Barnes of LSU, Steve Cochran of Environmental Defense Fund, ROR Executive Director Simone Maloz, Richelle Moore of CPRA, Megan Terrell of the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities (GOCA), and was moderated by Chip Kline, Deputy Director of GOCA. The group covered projects related to GOMESA forecasts, Environmental Impact Bonds (EIBs), EYIA's Financing the Future Report, CPRA's Outcome Based Performance Contracting, and Louisiana's Natural Resource Damage Assessment Banking Program.

A discussion with Governor John Bel Edwards and several coastal legislators followed shortly thereafter. Senate Natural Resources Chairman Norby Chabert acknowledged the diversity in the room and the commonality of those working for progress in coastal protection and restoration, despite differing opinions. House Natural Resources Chairman Stuart Bishop also discussed the FY19 Annual Plan.

The day closed with exhibits in the Capitol rotunda, outreach to statewide legislators, and/or attending the industry briefing by CPRA, which took a deep dive into projects coming online in the upcoming months. Coast Builders Coalition and Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana hosted a crawfish boil reception to round out the day.



Coastal funding panelists, including Simone Maloz of ROR, shared updates on several relevant coastal funding topics.



Governor John Bel Edwards addressed a large crowd during Coastal Day at the Legislature.



ROR's Annual Meeting guest speaker, Leah Brown of Chevron, speaking on the company's involvement in the Bayou Region.



ROR's Vice President Chett Chiasson, President Mike Plaisance and Executive Director Simone Maloz were presented with the auction proceeds from Benton LeBlanc of Creole Classic Fishing Tournament.

This annual event serves as an organizational update for ROR's members, stakeholders, and the community on Restore or Retreat's recent endeavors and latest happenings with our coast and the Bayou Region. The membership meeting also included Leah Brown from Chevron as the guest speaker. As Chevron's Gulf of Mexico Policy, Government and Public Affairs Manager, Leah discussed their community investments, including their long-standing support of Restore or Retreat and restoration in the Bayou Region, and other important coastal partnerships.

ROR Entertains and Educates at Creole Classic Fishing Tournament



ROR's Executive Director, Simone Maloz, observing the COAST 360 virtual reality headset in action.



Victoria Sagrera, ROR's Special Project Coordinator, leading a fish print activity.

The Creole Classic Fishing Tournament, a three-decade old rodeo held every June in Grand Isle, LA, and ROR joined forces through a strategic partnership to utilize the fishing rodeo to rally support for saving our Sportsman's Paradise by restoring Louisiana's rapidly vanishing coastline. ROR was proud to be a part of the very successful inaugural "Launch Party at the Creole Classic" on Friday, June 22nd, at Bridge Side Marina. The party featured children's activities for all ages that were both fun and educational presented by Restore or Retreat, Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), and Audubon Louisiana. ROR also offered an additional unique opportunity to rodeo participants who were interested in going on a high-quality, 360 virtual experience, called Coast 360, which conveys issues of coastal land loss and the urgent need for coastal restoration by bringing you on a virtual tour of the delta. Picture the coolest video game, set in the marsh on a boat, watching a restoration project being built! The events surrounding the fishing rodeo provided the same great time Creole Classic participants have grown to enjoy, and the partnership with ROR took the tournament a step further to ensure families had fun, by offering kid and family-friendly educational opportunities, which also just happened to raise awareness about Louisiana's land loss problem and the proposed solutions.

ROR Launches Quarterly Coastal Webinar

Restore or Retreat has introduced a new virtual method for coastal updates. This play on a traditional “lunch and learn” is a quarterly coastal webinar, called Field Report, with the objective of delivering the latest news on projects, concepts, and information on various coastal-related aspects of the Bayou Region.



Topics featured in 2018 included: an update on Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority’s (CPRA) diversion program from project leads, Brad Barth and Rudy Simoneaux, an update on the Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex project given by program lead, Mitch Marmande of Delta Coast Consultants, and lastly, Ben Malbrough of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District gave an update on the improvements to Bayou Lafourche, including the design of a new pump station on the Mississippi River.

ROR has a Great Rendezvous with Coastal Colonels

The annual fundraiser highlighted our friends and #ClosesttotheCoast partner, Nicholls State University.



Restore or Retreat was joined by great company to celebrate another year of exceptional coastal efforts at the 3rd Annual ROR Rendezvous! For this year’s theme, we wanted to stick close to “home.”

Daily, ROR’s advocacy aims to expedite the implementation of large-scale restoration projects in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins, which complements the coastal restoration research, education, and active student engagement our region’s bayou-side university offers.

In keeping with the coastal theme of the evening, ROR joined celebratory forces with Nicholls State University to acknowledge the college’s growing coastal education and community involvement in coastal efforts by sharing Nicholls’ motto of “closest to the coast.”

While we take time to celebrate our coastal success at Rendezvous once a year, we remain committed to working hard to implement meaningful solutions for our irreplaceable region, and we look forward to successful strides in coastal restoration in the years to come with the support and encouragement of our membership and community -- thank you for your continued support!



ROR Offers COAST360 Experience at Rougarou Festival

In the words of the Rougarou, “If the Rougarou doesn’t have a place to live, neither will you! That’s why it’s so important that everyone visiting the Rougarou Festival learns about coastal protection and restoration.” Restore or Retreat joined several coastal organizations in offering information to educate festival-goers on the importance of our coast, its current state, and why coastal restoration projects are critical to saving our irreplaceable region. ROR also offered the virtual reality tour of the growing Wax Lake Delta and restoration of Whiskey Island via Coast 360.



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In the Field | 2018

Project Highlights:

Bayou Lafourche and Terrebonne Barrier Islands

Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District's Proposed Pump Station

As the regional source of drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people, the necessity to increase flow rates of Bayou Lafourche is crucial. The Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District (BLFWD), in partnership with Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, have begun implementing the Bayou Lafourche Diversion project. As a component of the project, BLFWD proposed an improved pump station in Donaldsonville to deliver greater amounts of fresh, nutrient-dense water to the bayou from the Mississippi River, resulting in less impacts from saltwater intrusion, a cleaner and stable water source, and nourishment to surrounding wetlands. The Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District has finalized the pump station improvement plans and has started the process of securing permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. With the aid of future funding, the improved Bayou Lafourche pump station will directly benefit over 300,000 residents in Lafourche, Terrebonne, Assumption and Ascension Parishes.

NFWF Commits More Coastal Funds to Terrebonne Basin

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Board of Directors, with extensive consultation with CPRA, approved a \$161.4 million award to support restoration of the Terrebonne Basin barrier island system, including the restoration and beach nourishment of West Belle Headland, Timbalier and Trinity Islands. The award announcement was part of \$280 million from NFWF's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) to 21 new projects between Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas, designed to mend damage and lessen the risk of future harm to natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. NFWF previously provided significant funding for the Caminada Beach and Headland project, protecting Port Fourchon and Lafourche Parish.

Louisiana's Largest Restoration Project Completed in Terrebonne Parish



For a dynamic impact in restoration along Louisiana's coast, a suite of large, synergistically-functioning projects is most beneficial. Large-scale restoration projects reduce land loss and work together to provide maximum benefits to mending the ecosystem and sustaining habitats. An example of one of these hugely impactful projects includes the largest restoration project completed in Louisiana's history, located off the coast of Terrebonne Parish: Caillou Lake Headlands.

At a cost of approximately \$110 million, funded through the Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement, contractors pumped approximately 11.8 million cubic yards of sediment from ship shoal onto Caillou Lake Headlands to create 1,000 acres. That's enough sand to fill the Superdome three times!

Caillou Lake Headlands, better known as Whiskey Island, is a barrier island included in the Isles Dernieres island chain in Terrebonne Bay; Isles Dernieres also encompasses Raccoon, Trinity, and Wine islands. These barrier islands are the parish's first line of defense in the face of a storm, protecting wetlands and inland communities from surge impacts and flooding, while also reducing saltwater intrusion. This lasting investment also delivers benefits to wildlife and aquatic species inhabiting the surrounding estuary.

The completion of Caillou Lake Headlands marks a milestone in the State's coastal restoration program and exemplifies the effective, sustainable benefits that follow the overcoming of challenges in designing and constructing large-scale restoration projects.

BHP COAST project

Led by Restore or Retreat, the COAST (Coastal Advocates Through Science Training) program is a collaborative leadership development initiative for native communities in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. With partners from the Water Institute of the Gulf and Louisiana Sea grant, the program will link coastal restoration with coastal culture through an examination of restoration-related scientific and social impacts. COAST partners have kicked off the project with a new technique called geo-spatial mapping, which links storytelling to GPS coordinates. This information can then be used to identify places of importance and risk - often times the two collide. For more information, visit our website at www.restoreorretreat.org/coast and look for COAST partners to be hosting more community engagement events in 2019!



ROR Welcomes RESTORE Chair & EPA Administrator to Davis Pond

Field Trips

RESTORE Chair and EPA Administrator Wheeler visits Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion with CPRA and Restore or Retreat

Andrew Wheeler, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, wrapped up his time in the Bayou State by addressing regional economic leaders and touring a coastal restoration, freshwater diversion site in Luling, Louisiana - Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion.

“Coastal restoration is vital to the preservation of the environmental and economic health of the Gulf Coast,” said Wheeler. “Today, we saw firsthand the impact of erosion on Louisiana’s coast and the potential solutions that are possible when EPA, the RESTORE Council, NGOs, and the private sector all work together. These important restoration projects can help replenish wildlife and mitigate coastal erosion.”

Administrator Wheeler was joined by Regional Administrators Trey Glenn and Anne Idsal from Region 4 and Region 6, RESTORE Council Executive Director Ben Scaggs, National Wildlife Federation Gulf Restoration Director David Muth, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Chuck Carr Brown, and Restore or Retreat Executive Director Simone Maloz.

The Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act) dedicates 80 percent of Clean Water Act penalties resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the Trust Fund, for restoration projects in the Gulf Coast region.



Maloz welcomes Andrew Wheeler to Davis Pond for a tour of the freshwater diversion and its significant impacts to the area.



Andrew Wheeler viewing a core sample showing the variance of soil in layers from before the diversion to after by Erin Plitsch of CPRA.

ROR Welcomes Congressional Staffers to Coastal Louisiana

Restore or Retreat, along with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, and SouthWings welcomed six congressional staffers to Louisiana to take part in ROR’s Coastal Louisiana Congressional Staff Trip. Participants of the trip included the offices of Senator John Kennedy, Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi, Congressman Steve Scalise, Congressman Garret Graves, and House Committee on Natural Resources.

The congressional staffers were given a firsthand look into our coastal crisis and methods our state has taken to address the issues, by both an air boat tour of Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion and a bird’s eye view by coastal flight of southeast Louisiana. Throughout the duration of the trip, the staffers were educated on Louisiana’s land loss and flood risk, and using the State’s Coastal Master Plan to address it, they learned about Gulf-wide collaboration and federal agency involvement in the effort, and they were informed on the national economic importance of restoration, specifically by viewing Port Fourchon’s operations, development and involvement in restoration activities.

ROR also hosted their second annual Coastal 101 with congressional staffers from across Louisiana. ROR, CPRA and the Greater Lafourche Port Commission hosted in-state staffers at the Emergency Operations Center in Port Fourchon. The group also toured Caminada Headland at Elmer’s Island and the Mike Voisin Oyster Hatchery with a tour from Dr. Robert Twilley of LSU. Participants ended the day by joining the reception of the Fourchon Oilman’s Association.



Congressional staffers gathered at Fourchon Oilman’s Association fishing tournament reception during Coastal 101 program.



Tanner Johnson of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Simone Maloz of Restore or Retreat spoke about the Caminada Headlands project of Elmer’s Island, giving staffers a beachfront view of the project.



Touring Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion with staff from Restore or Retreat, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities and Environmental Defense Fund.

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Membership | 2018

ELITE

Walton Family Foundation
BHP COAST Program
National Wildlife Federation
Chevron

PLATINUM

ConocoPhillips
Greater Lafourche Port Commission**

GOLD

South Central Industrial Association
LOOP
Creole Classic Fishing Tournament
Bayou Community Foundation

SILVER

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