



Land Marks

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VOL. 5, ISSUE 1 - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

CWPPRA REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM MEETINGS: 70 PROPOSALS NARROWED TO 24 NOMINEES

Another new year brings another new set (the 28th set, to be precise) of CWPPRA projects vying for engineering and design funding. The first step in creating Project Priority List (PPL) 28 occurred at the Regional Planning Team Meetings. During these meetings, anyone from the public, the State, or federal agencies can propose a coastal restoration or protection project to the CWPPRA program. Presenters work with a lead agency to prepare preliminary project support information, such as fact sheets, maps, potential designs, and benefits. At the public meetings, they then have five minutes and five slides to discuss their proposal.



Darryl Clark of the USFWS led the Region 4 meeting at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge.



Joy Merino of NOAA proposes a project at the Region 3 meeting in the Port of Morgan City Building.

Meetings were held from January 30th to February 1st, 2018 in Grand Chenier (Region 4), Morgan City (Region 3), and Lacombe, LA (Region 1 and 2). In total, 70 projects were presented, including 64 basin, 2 coastwide, and 4 demonstration projects.

From these project proposals, the Regional Planning Teams needed to narrow down a list of nominees. Representatives from each CWPPRA agency and parish were allowed one vote each per basin. On February 27th, 2018, this electronic vote determined the final nominees for PPL 28, which consisted of 22 basin, 1 coastwide, and 3 demonstration projects. *(continued on page 2...)*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 12	CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
Apr. 18	CPRA Board Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
Apr. 20	Fete de Terre	Lafayette, LA
Apr. 20-21	Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival	Franklin, LA
Apr. 29	Louisiana Earth Day	Baton Rouge, LA
May 3	BTNEP Mgmt. Conference Meeting #83	Thibodaux, LA
May 16	CPRA Board Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
May 24	CWPPRA Task Force Meeting	Lafayette, LA
May 30-June 1	State of the Coast Conference	New Orleans, LA

Find out more details about these events and other events at:
www.lacoast.gov/calendar

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The CWPPRA working groups are now considering these 24 nominees and preliminarily evaluating them. They will review the project features, discuss potential benefits, and estimate fully funded cost ranges for each project. The Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee will prepare a matrix of cost estimates and other pertinent information for the nominees.

At the upcoming April 12th CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting in Baton Rouge, the committee representatives will consider the project costs and potential wetland benefits of each project. They will select 10 candidate projects regardless of basin and may select up to 3 demonstration projects. Public comment will be solicited at the meeting prior to voting.



A meeting participant comments on a proposal for a demonstration project at the Regions 1 and 2 meeting.

APPRECIATING WETLANDS ON WORLD WETLANDS DAY

In some parts of the world, February 2nd is a time to make weather predictions, and, while some of that did happen in coastal Louisiana, students and informal educators also gathered to celebrate World Wetlands Day. Celebrated internationally each year since 1997, World Wetlands Day commemorates the 1971 adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and tries to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands to people and the planet; this year's theme was "Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future."

More than 100 students and educators gathered at the Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum in Houma, LA for activities hosted by the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center. Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act staff were in attendance to talk with students about the different types of wetlands we have in Louisiana. In addition to a scavenger hunt



in the museum as they learned about the services that wetlands provide, students had the opportunity to get up close to wetland wildlife, learn about different wetland habitats, and think about how water moves through coastal and urban systems. Groups providing activities included Restore or Retreat, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, LSU Wildlife Hospital of LA, and the USDA Sugarcane Research Station. In addition to wildlife habitat, wetlands provide flood control, water purification, and sediment capture services, making them important for urban and rural communities.

FEATURED PROJECT: CAMINADA HEADLANDS BACK BARRIER MARSH CREATION (BA-171)

Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation, co-sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, was one of two projects approved for Phase II Construction, Increment I funding during the electronic CWPRA Task Force Vote on February 9th, 2018.

The project is located in Region 2, Lafourche Parish. It is defined as the area south of Louisiana Highway 1 between Belle Pass and Caminada Pass, directly behind Caminada Headland beach.

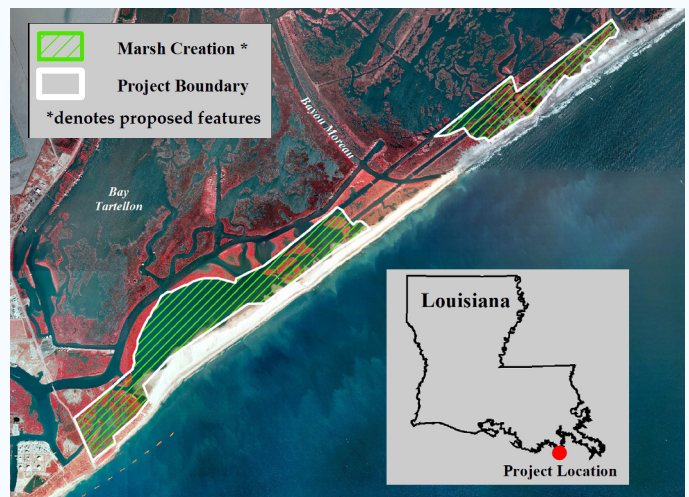
The Caminada Headland has experienced some of the highest shoreline retreat rates in Louisiana. Historically the shoreline has migrated landward at about 40 feet per year. Between 2006 and 2011, shoreline migration increased dramatically, exceeding 80 feet per year in near Bay Champagne and 110 feet per year in the Bayou Moreau area. The increased losses occurred in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 as the breaches remained open for an extended length of time. The losses were exacerbated by Tropical Storm Fay and Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008. Significant prolonged breaches greatly increase the net export of sediment from the headland.



Dredge material from the Gulf of Mexico will be pumped into the project area.

In addition to the shoreline migration, the area is also experiencing high loss rates of interior marshes. As the beach and dune continue to migrate landward, overwashed sediment will be lost into newly formed open water and land loss rates will be exacerbated. The continued deterioration of Caminada Headland threatens thousands of acres of wetland habitat as well as critical infrastructure, including Port Fourchon, LA Highway 1, and the lower Lafourche levee system.

At an estimated fully funded cost of \$33.5 million, the project is expected to create about 210 acres of back barrier intertidal marsh and nourish 175 acres of emergent marsh behind 3.5 miles of the Caminada



Project map for BA-171 (credit: U.S. Geological Survey)

beach using material dredged from the Gulf of Mexico. The project will create a platform upon which the beach and dune can migrate, which will reduce the likelihood of breaching, improve the longevity of the barrier shoreline, and protect wetlands and infrastructure to the north and west.

Adrian Chavarria, an environmental engineer with the EPA, helped develop the project. "The BA-171 project strengthens storm buffering functions for the infrastructure to the north and west of the project site, including Port Fourchon and Highway 1. This project will reduce the loss of overwash sediment into the open water, especially during storms and hurricanes."

"The project works synergistically with the recently completed Caminada Headland Beach and Dune Restoration Project (BA-45) and with the Caminada Headland Back Barrier Marsh Creation Increment II project (BA-193), currently in engineering and design. This project will help increase habitat for fisheries and wildlife and it has strong landowner and community support," says Chavarria.

Construction on the project will tentatively begin in early spring 2019 and take about a year to complete.



Project area looking west toward Port Fourchon (credit: Paul Quigley)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS MEET IN BATON ROUGE

Educators from across the state met in Baton Rouge February 23-24 for the 21st Louisiana Environmental Education State Symposium hosted by the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission. This yearly event provides an opportunity for formal and informal educators of environmental science to learn about new resources, exchange curriculum ideas, and try out activities. This year's theme was "Green STEM" and exhibitors were asked to talk about options for green STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers in their industries. The Keynote Address was given by Drs. Don Duggan-Haas and Robert Ross from the Paleontological Research Institution in Ithaca, NY and focused on communication about climate change.



Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act outreach staff were present to talk with educators about the importance of wetlands and describe strategies for wetlands restoration. Teachers could also pick up copies of the Protect Our Coast posters and Wetlands Infographic for their classrooms, as well as the recent issues of WaterMarks and the Henri Heron Activity Book. Coastal wetlands restoration in Louisiana supports the state's economic and cultural present and future, protecting the infrastructure and activities that residents depend on and enjoy; the development of the restoration industry offers long-term green STEM career opportunities to support our communities going forward.



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

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