



Land Marks

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CWPPRA REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM MEETINGS: 55 PROPOSALS NARROWED TO 22 NOMINEES

Another round of CWPPRA means another round of RPT meetings. From February 12-14, 2019, projects were proposed to CWPPRA team members for a chance to compete for funding. Some of the projects have been proposed before but did not get through the process, so here they are once more, competing with refined features and the same dedication to the coast.

There were many new projects suggested as well, which have all been proposed in regions where there is some need. All proposed projects were required to fit into Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan, which is a plan based around best-available science to combat land loss for the next 50 years in the areas most at risk.

Throughout the week, 55 total projects were proposed across the coast. 51 were regular projects within a basin, 3 were coastwide, and 1 was a demonstration project. The Regional Planning Team gathered these projects and held a vote on Friday, February 22nd. 22 projects moved forward including 1 coastwide project. The demonstration did not move forward. The 22 projects consisted of 3 projects in Pontchartrain, 3 in Breton Sound, 5 in Barataria, 4 in Terrebonne, and 2 in each Teche-Vermilion, Calcasieu-Sabine, and Mermentau Basins.

The PPL 29 nominees will be preliminarily evaluated by the CWPPRA Workgroups and narrowed down at the 11 April 2019 Technical Committee meeting to the PPL 29 candidate projects, which will consist of 10 basin projects (potentially including a coastwide project). Public comment will be solicited at the April Technical Committee meeting prior to the Committee's vote.



Jennifer Smith of NOAA NMFS proposing a project in region 4.



Scott Wandell of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 16	Family Adventure Day	Lafayette, LA
Mar. 20	CPRA Board Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
Apr. 6, 7	Ebb & Flow Festival	Baton Rouge, LA
Apr. 11	CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
Apr. 12-14	Migratory Bird Festival	Grand Isle, LA
Apr. 17	CPRA Board Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
Apr 22	Earth Day	

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



Above: Adrian Chavarria of EPA presenting a Region 1 proposal

Left: Ron Boustany of USDA NRCS presenting a Region 4 proposal

FEATURING BA-37: LITTLE LAKE SHORELINE PROTECTION/DEDICATED DREDGING NEAR ROUND LAKE

The Little Lake mapping unit is impacted by high wetland loss caused by shoreline erosion, subsidence, and channel construction. The project is located in an area protecting approximately 3,000 acres of fragile interior marshes between the Little Lake shoreline and Bayou L'Ours Ridge. Project area wetlands are subject to high shoreline erosion rates (20 to 40 feet per year) and subsidence deteriorating interior marshes. Without construction, the project area marsh was expected to convert to mainly open water over the next 20 years.

The project's goals were to prevent erosion along roughly 4 miles of Little Lake shoreline, create 488 acres of intertidal wetlands along the Little Lake shoreline, nourish and maintain 532 acres of intermediate marsh, and reduce land loss rates by 50 percent over the 20-year life of the project.



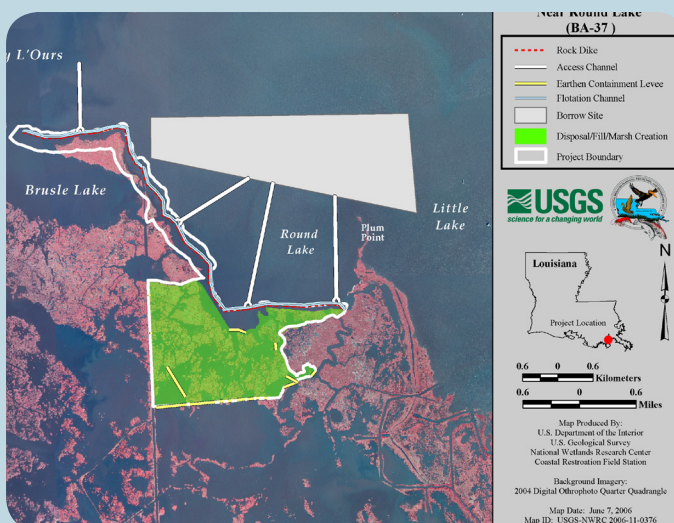
The project consists of two major features, a shoreline protection structure as well as a marsh creation and nourishment area. The 25,976 ft foreshore rock dike was constructed by placing rocks on top of a geotextile foundation. The dike was constructed using three lifts and include gaps every 1,000 to 1,500 ft for fisheries access.

The marsh creation and nourishment phase of this project consisted of containment dikes, marsh creation in open water areas, and marsh nourishment over existing marsh. Approximately, 920 acres of marsh were created and nourished through placement of 3,165,121 cubic yards of sediment from Little Lake. The marsh creation area was planted with 17,000 *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass) plugs.

The project is located in the central Barataria Basin in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The project area is bounded by the East and West Forks of Bayou L'Ours and the southern shoreline of Little Lake from Plum Point westward to Breton Canal.

This project was selected for Phase I (engineering and design) funding at the January 2002 Task Force meeting and for Phase II (construction) funding in November 2003. Construction was completed in 2007.

The project is listed on Priority Project List 11.



2ND ANNUAL COOK-OFF FOR THE COAST SERVES TO BENEFIT RESTORATION

Thanks to the Meraux Foundation, the second annual Cook-Off for the Coast played out beautifully on Saturday, February 9th, 2019. CWPPRA was one of many outreach and educational groups hosted at Docville Farm in Violet, LA for an afternoon of good food, good music, and great enthusiasm for coastal restoration.



All profits raised by the event went to Chalmette High School and Nunez Community College coastal restoration organizations which will use the funds to continue propagating and planting black mangroves in St. Bernard Parish and installing artificial oyster reef breakwaters just north of Comfort Island, east of the current delta.



We were set up next to our partner, Chuck Perrodin from CPRA (pictured above) and under the same tent as Louisiana Master Naturalists of Greater New Orleans, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the LSU AgCenter. Across the lot from us were Restore the Mississippi River Delta, CRCL, and various other restoration-minded groups.



The theme for this year's cook-off was wild game, so all the food that was prepared had some kind of wild game in it, including tuna, oysters, hog, etc. Each of the cooking groups brought something unique to the table, including duck tacos, crawfish eggrolls, and deer/hog gumbo. As the public got tastes of the coast, they could wander through the exhibition of restoration/protection groups. At our table we had our #ProtectOurCoast poster series and stickers, some relevant issues of watermarks, and activity books for our younger visitors. Visitors could also compete in wetland jeopardy. After learning about coastal issues and restoration efforts, visitors could enjoy more food or go into the dance hall where Michot's Melody Makers were playing their traditional Cajun music.



As the day came to a close, everyone gathered in the dance hall to award the best dishes as decided by the public. Awards were given for the best overall dish as well as best dish in 3 categories: Crawl, Fly, and Swim. With so many good contenders, the decision must have been difficult for the voting visitors. We would like to congratulate all the participants for getting involved with such a meaningful cause and preparing such delicious food. We'd like to thank the visitors and other exhibitors, as well as the Meraux Foundation, for the opportunity to share our love of wetlands and food- we cannot restore our coast without them.

HOUMA STUDENTS CELEBRATE WORLD WETLANDS DAY AT THE WETLANDS DISCOVERY CENTER

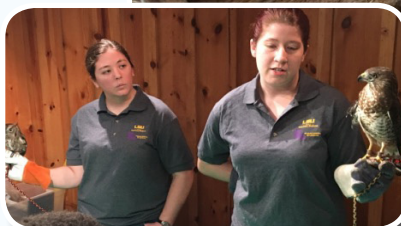
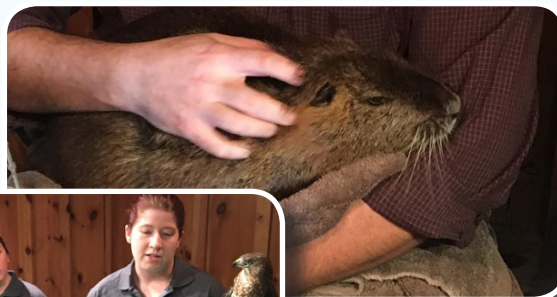
Getting out and working with students is one of our favorite things to do in the public outreach office, so we are so glad we were hosted by the Wetlands Discovery Center on February 1st for World Wetlands Day. Located in downtown Houma, Louisiana, the WDC has a beautifully curated wetlands museum exhibit as well as warm and friendly staff. The event was mostly open to Houma area schoolchildren ranging from 3rd to 7th grade with a short period at the end during which the public could participate. Students cycled through and engaged with 7 tables that each had a different focus.



Going around the room, Restore or Retreat taught students about coastal erosion with a small model of a barrier island's sandy beach, then the USDA Agricultural Research Service had students match seeds to pictures of their parent plants.

The next table was our host, the Wetlands Discovery Center, with a presentation about invasive species. They brought their resident nutria, Beignet, as an example. Next, the LSU Veterinary school brought two hawks and a screech owl, all of whom are residents at their school due to injuries. T Baker Smith demonstrated some restoration techniques like shoreline protection, vegetative planting, and marsh creation. After those techniques, Louisiana's Department of Environmental Quality presented how it is important to treat wastewater and how wetlands act as filters, and BTNEP shared a few examples of animals with shells. We brought a game that uses bean bag animals to teach about how some species are confined to a specific habitat, but some animals can use more than one habitat.

We appreciate the opportunity to get out and interact with students and we are proud to have worked with so many other enthusiastic and educational groups. Many thanks to our hosts, visitors, and colleagues, we appreciate all of the work you do to #ProtectOurCoast.



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

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