



Landmarks

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VOLUME. 6, ISSUE 3 - MAY/JUNE 2019

SIXTH ANNUAL NATIONAL FORUM ON SOCIOECONOMIC RESEARCH IN COASTAL SYSTEMS CONFERENCE

Every three years, the Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy (CNREP) at Louisiana State University hosts the National Forum on Socioeconomic Research in Coastal Systems. This exciting multidisciplinary conference highlights the challenges of socioeconomic research and policy in coastal systems. Because of the importance of this research in coastal restoration, the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act has been a key partner and participant in this conference since its inception. The Outreach Team shared the value of the CWPPRA program with conference attendees at the poster presentation session.

Keynote speaker James Barnett, author of *Beyond Control: The Mississippi River's New Channel to the Gulf of Mexico* and retired Director of the Historic Properties Division with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, discussed the changing course of the Mississippi River. He brought up the importance of the Old River Control Structure and its role forcing 70 percent of the Mississippi River down the current path and sending 30 percent of the water down the Atchafalaya. Barnett explored the possibility of the control structure failing and the impacts it will have throughout the country. Possible repercussions include New Orleans and Baton Rouge losing their freshwater source as salt water from the Gulf moves up the river as well as the destruction of pipelines that cross the Atchafalaya Basin as the full force of the Mississippi River passes through.

Additional keynote speakers included Roy Wright from the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) and Pawan Patil the Senior Economist for WorldBank. Wright spoke of his work developing strategies to build safer and stronger homes and businesses. Patil spoke of the importance of the Blue Economy in both nourishing nations and stimulating sustainable growth.



Dr. Rex Caffey, Director of LSU CNREP and Professor at LSU AgCenter and Louisiana Sea Grant, welcoming participants to the 2019 CNREP Conference.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 21	CPR Board Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
September 5-7	CRCL Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Planting	Slidell, LA
September 11	Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation	TBD
September 18	CPR Board Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
October 3-5	CRCL Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Planting	Slidell, LA

Find out more details about these events and other events at: www.LAcoast.gov/Calendar

WATERS TO THE SEA - MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE: HEADWATERS TO THE DELTA

Educators along the Mississippi River in Minnesota and Wisconsin and those here in Louisiana met in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, to explore ways to engage students in “one river thinking.” This workshop is coordinated by Hamline University’s Center for Global Environmental Education, the University of New Orleans Coastal Education Research Facility, and the Meraux Foundation. Attendees participated in discussions, field trips, and presentations by local coastal wetland organizations.

These elementary, middle, and high school teachers explored STEM disciplines through experimental, inquiry-based investigations at local watersheds. They increased their knowledge of the Mississippi River as a whole system, gained skills to help students enhance their STEM-focused investigation skills and discussed ways to guide the development of meaningful, engaging classroom investigation. Teachers also had time to share ideas and learn from each other. After the workshop educators are better equipped to teach students to think like a scientist, design like an engineer, and write like an author.



Educators listen attentively at the Waters to the Sea - Mississippi River Delta Educational Initiative in St. Bernard, Louisiana.

CWPPRA Outreach Team Member Kacie Wright spoke to the educators about the important resources that CWPPRA provides including our coastal wetland curriculum, the CRMS program, and the *WaterMarks* publication. She also explained the process for submitting a project for consideration in CWPPRA’s annual Priority Project List.

Educators also explored Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge in kayaks, saw the vastness of the Lake Borgne Surge Barrier, and chatted with various organizations working towards a healthy and sustainable river system. We are excited for the educators to take their experience in coastal Louisiana into the classroom and cultivate more wetland advocates!



Participants at the Waters to the Sea - Mississippi River Delta Educational Initiative. Photo: Bill Haines

GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE - ALL HANDS MEETING IN GULF SHORES, ALABAMA

Community Outreach and Media Specialist Kacie Wright represented the CWPPRA outreach program at the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) All Hands Meeting at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Like CWPPRA, GOMA highlights the importance of partnerships to enhance the health of the Gulf Coast. While CWPPRA is made up of five federal agencies, GOMA is led by leaders of the five Gulf states and includes a network of individuals from nonprofits, federal agencies, businesses, and academic organizations throughout the Gulf Coast. At the All Hands Meeting, attendees broke into Priority Issue Teams to address topics such as Community Resilience, Data & Monitoring, Education & Engagement, Habitat Resources, Wildlife & Fisheries, and Water Resources.

Because CWPPRA shares the value of wetlands and engages the public in the importance of coastal restoration, we attended the Education & Engagement priority team meeting. At the meeting, individuals shared new ideas and projects to enhance the Gulf Coast. Team members from the Texas Aquarium shared their work engaging teachers to improve coastal curriculum in schools through NOAA's Watershed Environmental Education Grants. Representatives from Galveston Bay Keeper presented their project to change the behavior of individuals who toss their fishing line into the bay.



Looking out onto a dune restoration site along the Gulf of Mexico in Gulf Shores, Alabama at the GOMA All Hands Meeting.

The Director of the Mississippi State University Television Center, David Garraway, also presented to the Education & Engagement Team on best practices for crafting effective visual storytelling and going live on social media. Garraway shared the importance of understanding your audience and the message you want to share when creating video content to go on social media. A key message in his presentation was, “show your audience, don’t tell them” when creating inspiring videos. CWPPRA is excited to bring this knowledge back to Louisiana to create interesting and entertaining videos of our coastal restoration projects to share with you.

The Education & Engagement Team also highlighted GOMA's Embrace the Gulf 2020 campaign. 2020 is the ten-year anniversary of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and the fifteen-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and GOMA plans to highlight the many benefits the gulf ecosystems bring to the communities that live along the coast. While these disasters have made us stronger, they do not define our communities. During Embrace the Gulf 2020, GOMA is planning 365 facts to share with their network to highlight the Gulf of Mexico and a blueways paddling trail along all five Gulf States. This paddling trail will give people the opportunity to get out on the water and enjoy the coastal ecosystems all along the Gulf Coast. Stay in touch, CWPPRA will share the paddle trail details and the 365 facts to encourage you to Embrace the Gulf in 2020!



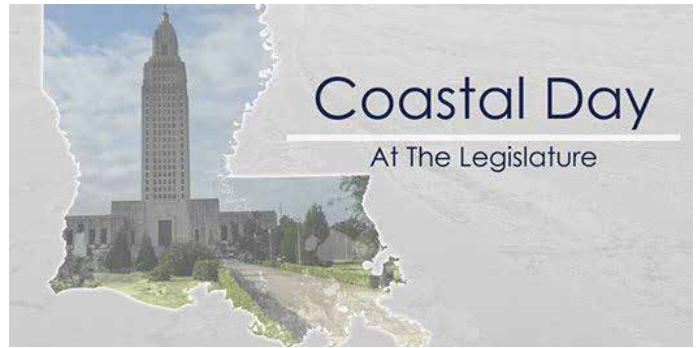
The Lodge at Gulf State Park hosted the Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting on June 10-13.

COASTAL DAY AT THE CAPITOL IN BATON ROUGE, LA

On April 22, 2019, invested coastal groups flocked to the capitol to share their concern for Louisiana's coast with Louisiana State Representatives. One of the main themes of the day was the importance of partnerships between groups in the coastal field. During the first panel, nonprofit groups, industry leaders, and local community college professors came together to discuss their collaborative efforts to help the Louisiana coast. Helen Rose Patterson from Restore the Mississippi River Delta discussed her outreach with faith leaders to share the importance of restoring Louisiana's wetlands. Susan Testroet-Bergeron from the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) discussed BTNEP's partnership with Apache Corporation and their project constructing osprey nesting platforms. Lacy McManus, from GNO, Inc., discussed the link between coastal restoration and the state's workforce. Clint Coleman, the Dean of STEM at Fletcher Technical College, discussed the college's partnership with Terrebonne Parish to develop the new coastal restoration program to train students for coastal restoration jobs throughout Terrebonne Parish.



Mississippi River Bridge in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



Louisiana capitol in Baton Rouge.

Gov. John Bel Edwards also announced multiple partnerships growing at the state level. Because of the current partnership with the federal government and the oil and gas industry, Louisiana will receive over \$300 million from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). These funds come from revenue sharing from oil and gas productions and will go towards hurricane protection and coastal restoration projects. The governor also announced a new partnership between the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and Nicholls State University. NSU and CPRA plan to create a coastal center on campus to study land loss in the Terrebonne Basin. Terrebonne Parish is facing the largest rate of land loss in the state of Louisiana. In addition to land loss, this new coastal center will study the land-building power within the Atchafalaya Basin.



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

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