



State of Louisiana

**Coastal Protection and Restoration
Authority of Louisiana (CPRA)**

**2025/2026 Annual Inspection
Report**

for

**FRESHWATER BAYOU CANAL
BANK STABILIZATION
PROJECT (ME-13)**

State Project Number ME-13
Priority Project List 5

February 2, 2026
Vermilion Parish



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I. Introduction

The Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization Project (ME-13) is located in the Mermentau Basin on the western bank of the Freshwater Bayou Canal (FBC) in Vermilion Parish just south of the town of Intracoastal City. Structural components of the project extend from the North Prong/Belle Isle Canal north to the Six-mile Canal. (See Appendix A).

The Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization Project was authorized by Section 303(a) of Title III Public Law 101-646, the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) enacted on November 29, 1990 as amended and approved on the fifth Priority Project List. The Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization Project was approved with an original twenty-year (20 year) project life, which began in June 1998. In 2016, the CWPPRA Task Force approved a project extension for an additional 20 years.

II. Inspection Purpose and Procedures

The purpose of the annual inspection of the Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization Project (ME-13) is to evaluate the constructed project features to identify any deficiencies and prepare a report detailing the condition of project features and recommended corrective actions needed. Should it be determined that corrective actions are needed, CPRA shall provide, in the report, a detailed cost estimate for engineering, design, supervision, inspection, and construction contingencies, and an assessment of the urgency of such repairs (O&M Plan, 2003). The annual inspection report also contains a summary of maintenance projects which were completed since completion of constructed project features and an estimated projected budget for the upcoming three (3) years for operation, maintenance and rehabilitation. The three (3) year projected operation and maintenance budget is shown in Appendix C. A summary of past operation and maintenance projects completed since completion of the Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization Project are outlined in Section IV.

An inspection of the Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization Project (ME-13) was held on December 18, 2025, under partly cloudy skies and mild temperatures. In attendance were Brent Bouy, Kimberly Hamm, and Stuart Hebert from CPRA, along with Eric Whitney representing NRCS. The inspection began at the northern end of the rock dike alignment at 9:30 am.

The field inspection included a complete visual inspection of the foreshore rock dike.

III. Project Description and History

Constructed between 1965 and 1967, the FBC channel extends from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) at Intracoastal City to the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), providing safe passage for deep-draft vessels of commercial interests from the GOM to the GIWW. The canal includes a lock near the GOM to reduce saltwater intrusion into the fresh water and low salinity interior wetlands along the canal. Between 1979 and 1986, approximately 300,000 tons of cargo was transported along FBC, mostly in oil and gas service and supply vessels and commercial fishing boats (U. S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] 1989).

The main cause of wetland loss in the ME-13 project area is boat wake-induced erosion of the canal spoil banks and the fragile organic soils of the adjacent marsh along the west bank of the canal (USACE and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources [LDNR] 1994). The subsequent impact of tidal scour and seasonal salinity spikes entering FBC, mainly from Little Vermilion Bay, exacerbates the loss of shoreline marsh in the project area. When completed in 1967, the average bank width of the original FBC channel was 173 ft. By 1990, the average bank width of the channel had more than tripled to 583 ft (Good et al. 1995). Brown and Root (1992) estimated that between 1968 and 1992, shoreline erosion along FBC averaged 12.5 ft/yr on each bank.

The principal project features include:

- Site 1 - Foreshore Rock Dike (approximately 23,193 linear feet)

The original dike was constructed in 1998. The dike was built to elevation +4.0 (NAVD 88) with a four foot crown width and a 1 on 2 side slopes, using 1,100 lb (max-size) stone.

IV. Summary of Past Operation and Maintenance Projects

General Maintenance: Below is a summary of completed maintenance projects and operation tasks performed since June 1998, the construction completion date of the Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization Project (ME-13).

2005 - Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization Maintenance Project – LDNR (Luhr Bros. Contractor): This maintenance project included the installation of approximately 20,987 tons of 1,250 lb gradation stone to repair 9,130 linear feet of bank. Quantity limitations prevented the repair of all sections required. Construction was completed on 12/15/2005. The cost associated with the engineering, design and construction of the Freshwater Bayou Canal Stabilization Maintenance Project is as follows:

Construction: \$464,368.55

Engineering & Design:	\$ 2,234.46
Construction Administration:	\$ 5,625.00
Construction Oversight/As built:	<u>\$ 15,503.10</u>

Project Total: \$487,731.11

2015 - Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization Maintenance Project – CPRA (Luhr Bros. Contractor): This maintenance project included the installation of approximately 59,525 tons of 250 Lb Class Rock to repair the entire 23,193 linear feet of bank. Construction was completed on 3/4/2016. The cost associated with the engineering, design and construction of the Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization Maintenance Project is as follows:

Construction:	\$2,510,050.00
Engineering & Design:	\$ 75,523.23
Construction Admin., Oversight, As-built:	<u>\$ 46,300.93</u>
Project Total:	\$2,631,874.16

Structure Operations: There are no active operations associated with this project.

V. Inspection Results

Site 1—Foreshore rock dike

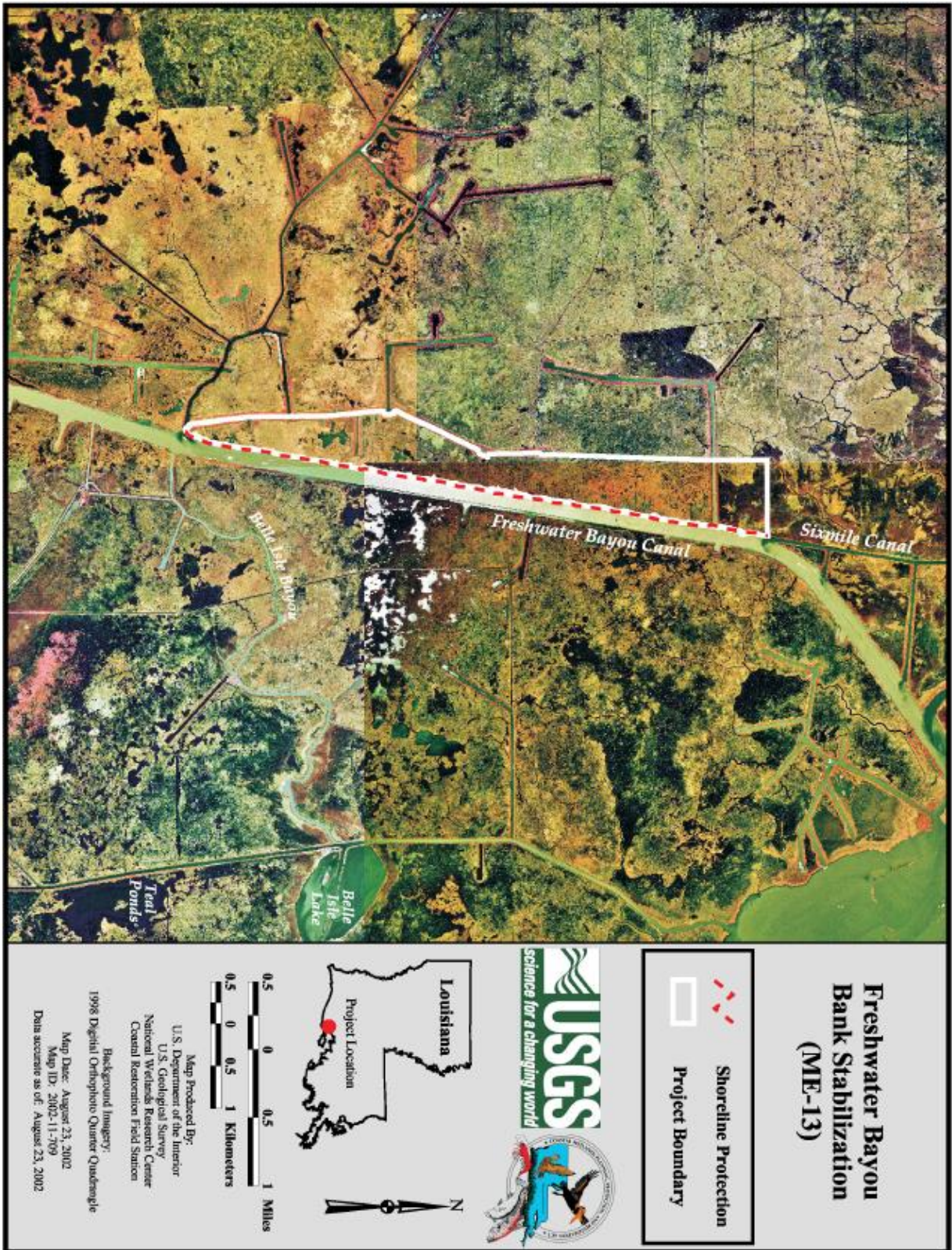
The inspection revealed the entire 23,193 linear feet of foreshore rock is in good condition. (Appendix B)

VI. Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall the Freshwater Bayou Canal Bank Stabilization Project is in good condition. Minimal maintenance should be required during the next 13 years.

The three-year budget amount, shown in Appendix C, is based on the O&M Plan and includes a scheduled rock-capping event during that period.

Appendix A
Project Features Map



Appendix B
Photographs

Annual Inspection Report
FRESHWATER BAYOU CANAL
BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT
State Project No. ME-13



Appendix C

Three Year Budget Projection

FRESHWATER BAYOU CANAL BANK STABILIZATION / ME13 / PPL5
Three-Year Operations & Maintenance Budgets 07/01/2026 - 06/30/2029

<u>Project Manager</u>	<u>O & M Manager</u>	<u>Federal Sponsor</u>	<u>Prepared By</u>	
	Brent Bouy	NRCS	Brent Bouy	
	2026/2027 (-29)	2027/2028 (-30)	2028/2029 (-31)	20-Yr Est
Maintenance Inspection	\$ 10,763.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Structure Operation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
State Administration	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,382.00	\$ 35,906.00	
Federal Administration	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
Maintenance/Rehabilitation				

2026/2027 (-29) Description:

E&D	\$ -
Construction	\$ -
Construction Oversight	\$ -
Sub Total - Maint. And Rehab.	\$ -

2027/2028 (-30) Description:

E&D	\$ -
Construction	\$ -
Construction Oversight	\$ -
Sub Total - Maint. And Rehab.	\$ -

2028/2029 (-31) Description: Rock Capping Event

E&D	\$ 100,000.00
Construction	\$ 1,076,000.00
Construction Oversight	\$ -
Sub Total - Maint. And Rehab.	\$ 1,176,000.00

	2026/2027 (-29)	2027/2028 (-30)	2028/2029 (-31)
Total O&M Budgets	\$ 16,763.00	\$ 8,382.00	\$ 1,217,906.00

O & M Budget (3 yr Total)	\$ 1,243,051.00
Unexpended O & M Budget	\$ 3,353,334.00
Remaining O & M Budget (Projected)	\$ 2,110,283.00

based on LANA unexpended & incremental request

Appendix D
Field Inspection Form

Annual Inspection Report
 FRESHWATER BAYOU CANAL
 BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT
 State Project No. ME-13

		Date of Inspection: December 18, 2025 Time: 9:50 AM	
Project No. - Name:		ME-0013 - FRESHWATER BAYOU WETLAND PROTECTION	
Structure No.:		Inspector(s): Brent Bouy, Kimberly Hamm, Stuart Hebert (CPRA -LAF) Eric Whitney (NRCS)	
Structure Description:		Rock Dikes	
Type of Inspection:		Annual Water Level: Calm at low tide - ~ -0.8 NAVD88 Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy with mild temperatures.	
Item	Condition	Photo #	Observations and Remarks
Rock Dike	Good		The Rock dikes are in good condition.
What are the conditions of the existing levees?		N/A	
Are there any noticeable breaches?		N/A	
Settlement of rock plugs and rock weirs?		N/A	
Position of stoplogs at the time of the inspection?		N/A	
Are there any signs of vandalism?		N/A	