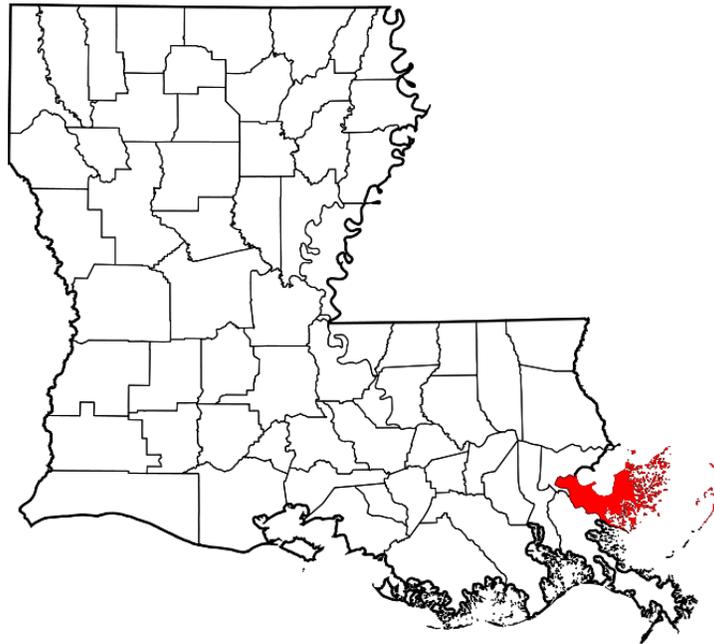




St. Bernard Parish Government

Coastal Division

RESTORE Act Multiyear Implementation Plan



September 2016



Contents

I. Executive Summary	2
II. Previous Planning Efforts	3
III. RESTORE Multiyear Implementation Planning Process	5
IV. RESTORE Direct Component Allocation and Budget Overview	6
V. Proposed Activities	7
<i>A. Recreational Fishing Piers and Public Seafood Market/Pavilion</i>	9
<i>B. Paris Road Corridor Welcome Center and Streetscape Enhancement</i>	11
<i>C. Nunez Community College Fisheries Workforce Development Program</i>	13
VI. St. Bernard Parish Government Coastal Division Staff	15
References	16
Appendix A: Coastal Zone Advisory Committee Review	17
Appendix B: Council Adoption	18
Appendix C: Other Coastal Restoration Activities	19
Appendix D: RESTORE Act Multiyear Implementation Plan Matrix and Narrative Forms	20



I. Executive Summary

On April 20, 2010, a series of explosions on the *Deepwater Horizon* oil rig caused the Macondo well to blowout and release what would ultimately be nearly five million barrels of crude oil (Austin et al. 2014). The incident occurred in the Gulf of Mexico approximately forty miles off the coast of Louisiana. Eleven crewmembers perished during the initial explosions and the resulting oil spill would continue until the well was capped on July 15, 2010. The Deepwater Horizon incident (hereafter referred to as the "BP Oil Spill") was the deadliest and most environmentally devastating oil spill in US history.

The economic impacts of the BP Oil Spill were also significant and far-reaching. All deep water drilling activities in the US ceased within five days of the incident and would remain suspended by the US Department of Interior until October 2010 (Austin et al. 2014). This period of inactivity resulted in significant consequences for the petroleum industry. The fishing and ecotourism industries along the Gulf Coast were also devastated by the BP Oil Spill, and the environmental impacts of the incident would continue to adversely affect these sectors into the future.

St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana was particularly devastated by the BP Oil Spill due to the prominence of the fishing industry in the community. According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA), marine-related businesses accounted for 19% of all employment in St. Bernard Parish as of 2009 (NOAA 2012). Approximately 68% of all marine-related industry in St. Bernard Parish provided goods and services relative to commercial and recreational fishing prior to the BP Oil Spill (Small Business Association 2013). The annual economic impact of marine-related activities in the parish was approximately \$198 million before the incident occurred (NOAA 2012).

In July 2012, President Barack Obama signed into law the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), which was passed by Congress as a means of creating a mechanism by which a portion of the civil penalties associated with the BP Oil Spill would be utilized to mitigate the impacts of the incident. The *Direct Component* of the RESTORE Act makes 35% of all penalty funds available to four Gulf States (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida); twenty-three (23) Florida counties; and twenty (20) Louisiana parishes for eligible activities, programs, and projects as per the 31 CFR, Part 34. As an eligible applicant for Direct Component funding, St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) is required to submit a *multiyear implementation plan* (MIP) outlining and prioritizing eligible program activities in preparation for RESTORE funding requests.



II. Previous Planning Efforts

Restoring Louisiana's coast was a top priority for the State of Louisiana and SBPG prior to the BP Oil Spill. However, the incident exacerbated many existing challenges and created new challenges for coastal communities throughout the state, ultimately providing the impetus for a greater level of commitment and a heightened sense of urgency amongst stakeholders. Consequently, there are a number of recent coastal restoration planning documents that SBPG was able to take into consideration as the organization crafted its RESTORE MIP.

Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (2012)

The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is a State agency that was established as the single authority for coastal restoration in Louisiana. The CPRA has initiated a comprehensive planning and implementation strategy for protecting the environment and economy in the state's coastal region, as documented in *Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (2012 State Master Plan)*. Two of the primary goals outlined in the 2012 State Master Plan are to sustain *cultural heritage* and promote a *working coast*. The CPRA defines these two goals as follows:

Cultural Heritage: Sustain, to the extent practicable, the unique cultural heritage of coastal Louisiana by protecting historic properties and traditional living cultures and their ties and relationships to the natural environment.

Working Coast: Promote a viable working coast to support regionally and nationally important businesses and industries. (CPRA 2012)

SBPG share's the CPRA's vision for sustaining cultural heritage and promoting a viable economy in coastal Louisiana. This vision is reflected in the activities included in the parish's RESTORE MIP.

St. Bernard Parish Coastal Zone Management Program Document (2012)

The *St. Bernard Parish Coastal Zone Management Program Document (CZMPD)* was presented to the St. Bernard Parish Council in 2012 for the purpose of providing guidance on local coastal program implementation and restoration project selection. The document also highlighted the abundance of natural resources in St. Bernard Parish and the economic significance of the parish's natural environment. Goals set forth in this document include:



Promoting recreational facilities in the wetlands through the development of facilities such as parks and boat launches; and

Supporting environmentally sound economic uses with special emphasis on sustainable multiple-use of waterfront areas. (Coastal Environments, Inc. 2012)

The framework provided in the CZMPD was utilized in identifying projects during subsequent planning efforts, including the *St. Bernard Parish Project Priority List* (2015) and the *St. Bernard Parish Coastal Priority Projects Strategy Document* (2016). Similarly, the SBPG RESTORE MIP was devised with the CZMPD framework and goals in mind.

St. Bernard Parish Project Priority List (2015)

The St. Bernard Parish Coastal Zone Advisory Committee (CZAC) presented the St. Bernard Parish Council with a suite of proposed coastal restoration projects in 2015. The projects were listed in order of priority and were adopted by the St. Bernard Council. Several of the projects included on the list were subsequently submitted to the CPRA and are now being considered for inclusion in the 2017 State Master Plan. However, many of the projects required further scoping and feasibility analysis in order to be given serious consideration for funding. This list of projects would become the foundation of the *St. Bernard Parish Coastal Priority Projects Strategy Document* (2016), which included a preliminary scope of work; projected budget; feasibility analysis; and funding matrix for each project.

St. Bernard Parish Coastal Priority Projects Strategy Document (2016)

The *St. Bernard Parish Coastal Priority Strategy Document* (2016 Strategy Document) includes an updated list of proposed projects that were ranked using a three-tier priority system. The document also includes a funding matrix which outlines potential funding sources for proposed projects. Several projects included in the 2016 Strategy Document were specifically identified as potential RESTORE Act Direct Component candidates, including the following:



Recreational Fishing Pier and Public Seafood

Market/Pavilion: This project was included in the 2016 Strategy Document due to the projected economic benefits of investing in additional recreational and commercial fishing infrastructure in St. Bernard Parish; and

Paris Road Corridor Welcome Center and Streetscape

Enhancement: This project was included in the 2016 Strategy Document In order to promote ecotourism in St. Bernard Parish by accentuating the natural environment along Paris Road and providing a suitable space for a new welcome center.

The 2016 Strategy Document was adopted by the CZAC in July 2016 and the St. Bernard Parish Council in August 2016. The two aforementioned 2016 Strategy Document projects, along with a workforce development and job creation component, have formed the basis of the parish's RESTORE MIP and pending initial RESTORE funding requests.

III. RESTORE Multiyear Implementation Planning Process

An initial draft of the SBPG RESTORE MIP was presented to the St. Bernard Parish CZAC for review and comment on August 31, 2016 (see Appendix A for meeting agenda, sign-in sheet, and minutes). Pursuant to the 31 CFR, Part 34, the document was subsequently made available for public comment via www.sbpbg.net (electronic version) and at 8201 West Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, Louisiana 70043 (hard copy) from September 1, 2016 through October 17, 2016. Comments from the CZAC and the public were compiled into a single document and presented to the St. Bernard Parish Council at its regular meeting on October 18, 2016 (see Appendix B for meeting agenda, minutes, and Council resolution). A final draft of the document was completed and submitted to the US Department of the Treasury on October 20, 2016.



Image III-1

St. Bernard Parish has been a commercial fishing hub since the area was first settled by Canary Islanders in the 1790's



IV. RESTORE Direct Component Allocation and Budget Overview

According to the US Department of the Treasury, Office of Gulf Coast Restoration, the net RESTORE Direct Component allocation available to St. Bernard Parish as of May 13, 2016 was **\$1,898,511.72**. This RESTORE MIP will account for how SBPG intends to utilize these funds for eligible program activities. Table IV-1 (below) provides a summary of activities proposed by SBPG.

Table IV-1
RESTORE Direct Component Budget Overview

RESTORE Activity	Scope of Work	Budget
Recreational Piers and Public Market/Pavilion	Engineering/Design (100%) + Phase 1	\$550,000.00
Paris Rd Corridor Welcome Center/Streetscape	Streetscape Design + Installation (100%)	\$1,000,000.00
Nunez CC Fisheries Workforce Development	Program Funding (2 years)	\$275,000.00
SBPG Administrative Costs	Program/Grant Management (2 years)	\$54,750.00
INITIAL RESTORE MIP TOTAL:		\$1,879,750.00
REMAINING BALANCE:		\$18,761.72



V. Proposed Activities

The RESTORE Act contains eleven categories of activities eligible for funding under the Direct Component:

1. Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
3. Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
4. Workforce development and job creation.
5. Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
6. Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
7. Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
8. Planning assistance.
9. Administrative costs of complying with the Act.
10. Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing.
11. Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region.

Each activity proposed in the SBPG RESTORE MIP may be categorized according to one or more of the above RESTORE activity categories.



Image V-1

The New Orleans skyline, as seen from Paris Road near Bayou Bienvenue
(Source: The New Orleans Advocate)



SBPG is in the process of pursuing funding for a number of coastal restoration projects outside of what is being proposed here in the RESTORE MIP. A complete list of non-RESTORE activities and their current status has been included in Appendix C.

The activities currently being proposed for RESTORE Act Direct Component funding include:

- A. Recreational Fishing Pier and Public Seafood Market/Pavilion
- B. Paris Road Corridor Welcome Center and Streetscape Enhancement
- C. Nunez Community College Fisheries Workforce Development Program

Each of the proposed activities is profiled below.



A. Recreational Fishing Pier and Public Seafood Market/Pavilion

RESTORE Category:	Infrastructure project benefiting the economy or ecological resources Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing
Total Estimated Cost:	\$3,000,000
Initial RESTORE Request:	\$550,000 (\$300,000 for Design/Engineering + \$250,000 for Phase 1)
Project Timeline:	Design/Engineering (Oct. 2017); Phase 1 Construction (May 2018)

Map V-1

SBPG proposes to construct two recreational fishing piers and a public seafood market/pavilion complex in eastern St. Bernard Parish





Need: Recreational fishing piers are needed in eastern St. Bernard Parish in order to provide a space for locals and tourists to safely fish and/or enjoy the natural environment while remaining at a safe distance from area highways. Additionally, the parish is currently lacking available space for commercial fishermen to engage in the direct sale of fresh seafood or to dry dock their vessels. These infrastructure deficiencies have had the effect of limiting economic opportunities in eastern St. Bernard Parish.

Purpose: The proposed project includes the construction of two recreational fishing piers and a public seafood market/pavilion complex. Preliminary site selection for the improvements has been based on the location and availability of property on the water and the likelihood of public utility and economic benefits. Once established, SBPG believes these improvements would be invaluable tools for the promotion of ecotourism and the consumption of Gulf seafood in eastern St. Bernard Parish.

Objectives: The objectives of the proposed project are to design and construct two recreational fishing piers (Shell Beach and Delacroix) and one public seafood market/pavilion complex (near the confluence of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and Bayou La Loutre). The public seafood market/pavilion complex would include a dock, covered pavilion, and parking lot. A hoist and dry dock facility would also be constructed near the recreational fishing pier in Delacroix. Once constructed, the facilities would be operated and maintained by SBPG in perpetuity for the purpose of enhancing economic opportunities in eastern St. Bernard Parish.

Funds Requested: SBPG's initial RESTORE Direct Component request for this project would be \$550,000. The breakdown of this proposed request is as follows:

- \$300,000 for designing/engineering the entire project; and
- \$250,000 for Phase 1 construction, which is projected to include the public seafood market pavilion, dock, and parking lot.

Subsequent project phases include the installation of the hoist and dry dock (Phase 2) and the construction of the recreational fishing piers (Phase 3). SBPG intends on requesting additional RESTORE Direct Component funds for phases 2 and 3 at a later date.

Project Milestones: 100% design/engineering (October 2017); completion of Phase 1 construction (May 2018)

Performance Measures: Facility utilization and economic impact will be used to gauge project performance.

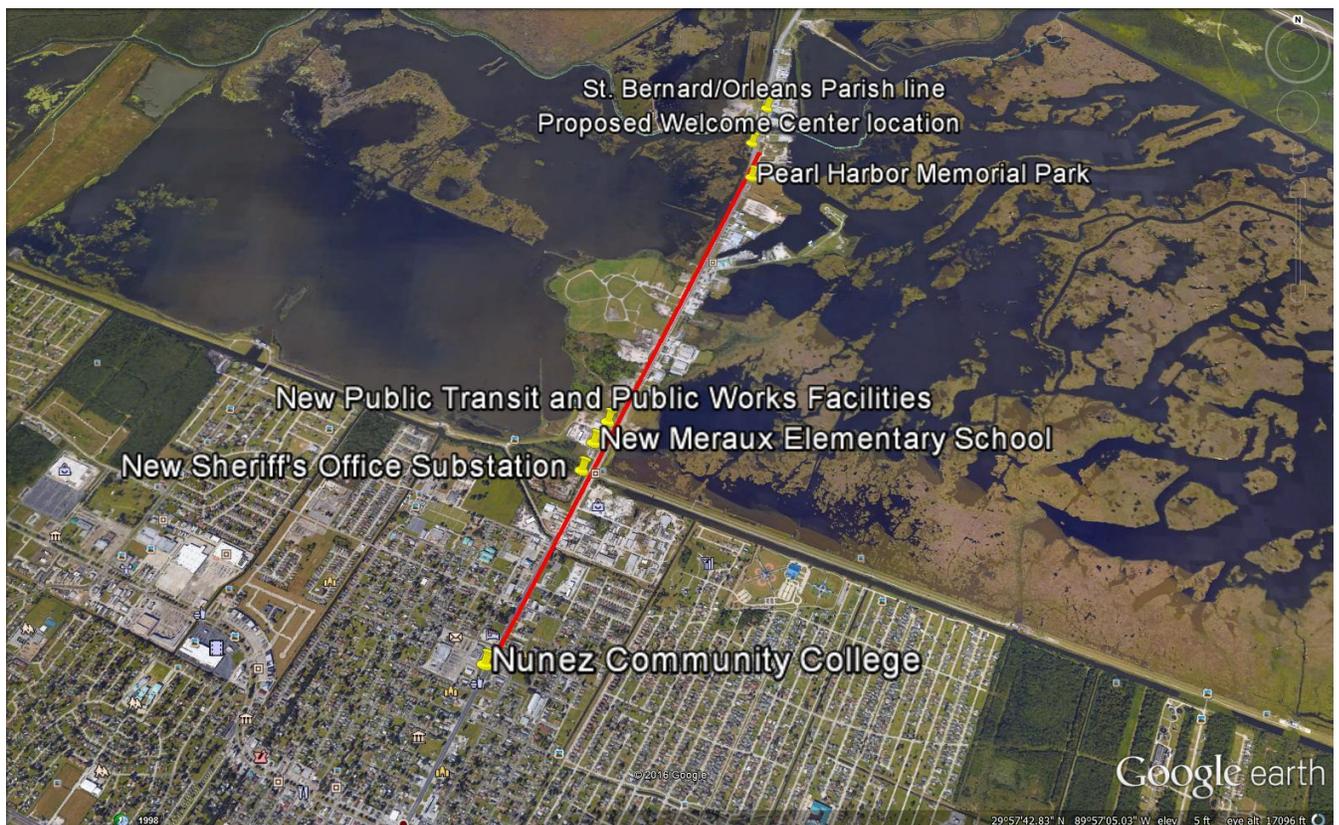


B. Paris Road Corridor Welcome Center and Streetscape Enhancement

RESTORE Category:	Infrastructure project benefiting the economy or ecological resources Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing
Total Estimated Cost:	\$2,200,000
Initial RESTORE Request:	\$1,000,000 for 100% design and installation of streetscape features
Project Timeline:	Design (August 2017); Installation (December 2017)

Map V-II

SBPG proposes to construct a welcome center near the parish line and enhance the streetscape from Bayou Bienvenue to Nunez Community College





Need: Paris Road runs through the Central Wetlands Unit (CWU) and over Bayou Bienvenue, and is one of only three thoroughfares connecting St. Bernard Parish to New Orleans. While the other two major thoroughfares in the parish have been enhanced since Hurricane Katrina, the Paris Road corridor remains unimproved. SBPG has already acquired property and funding for the design and construction of a welcome center on Paris Road near the parish line. However, funds to enhance the streetscape and capitalize on the natural features along Paris Road are currently unavailable.

Purpose: SBPG proposes to design and install a suite of streetscape enhancements, including new lighting, landscaping, trees, and interpretive signage, in order to accentuate the natural environment along Paris Road and compliment the new welcome center, which will be constructed in 2017. Additionally, SBPG proposes to remove all visible marine debris from the CWU and Bayou Bienvenue within one-hundred (100) feet of the western shoulder of Paris Road. The proposed project will enhance the natural environment along Paris Road and promote ecotourism and economic opportunity in St. Bernard Parish.

Objective: The objective of the proposed project is to design and install a suite of streetscape enhancements that will complement the pending welcome center project, improve aesthetics along the Paris Road corridor, and increase public awareness of the natural environment and ecotourism opportunities in St. Bernard Parish.

Funds Requested: SBPG's initial RESTORE Direct Component request for this project would be \$1,000,000. The breakdown of this proposed request is as follows:

- \$100,000 for streetscape enhancement design; and
- \$900,000 for streetscape enhancement installation.

The welcome center component of the proposed project (\$1,200,000) is already funded.

Project Milestones: 100% design (August 2017); installation (December 2017)

Performance Measures: SBPG will gauge the success of the project by surveying residents and visitors when the project is complete. Additionally, welcome center utilization will be used to assess project performance.



C.Nunez Community College Fisheries Workforce Development Program

RESTORE Category:	Workforce Development and Job Creation Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested in the Gulf region
Total Estimated Cost:	\$275,000
Initial RESTORE Request:	\$275,000 (2-year program)
Project Timeline:	April 2017 through May 2019

Image V-1

*Nunez Community College, located in St. Bernard Parish, is one of only ten community colleges in the state of Louisiana
(Source: Nunez Community College)*





Need: Nunez Community College (Nunez) recently commissioned a study to explore the potential of establishing the school as a *fisheries hub of excellence*. The study identified a number of workforce development gaps and resources that fisheries-oriented businesses need in order to start and thrive. Specifically, the study addressed the challenges associated with the emerging ecotourism, charter fishing, and direct to market sales sectors. An opportunity exists to utilize existing curriculum and develop new curriculum at Nunez for the purpose of establishing a comprehensive fisheries program that would address unmet workforce development needs relative to the aforementioned emerging sectors.

Purpose: SBPG proposes to collaborate with Nunez and other community partners to design, fund, and administer a comprehensive workforce development program that is focused on emerging fisheries-oriented sectors. The target audience for the program would be current commercial fishermen and their families, mid-career workers, and high school students. The program would be supported by the other projects included in this RESTORE MIP, such as the welcome center and the public seafood market/pavilion complex.

Objective: The objective of the proposed program is to design, fund, and administer a fisheries-oriented workforce development program that addresses unmet workforce development needs relative to emerging fisheries-oriented sectors. The ultimate goal of the program is to enhance the local economy by providing a degree program that is tailored to providing local residents with the best opportunity to capitalize on St. Bernard Parish's natural resources and environment.

Funds Requested: SBPG's initial RESTORE Direct Component request for this project would be \$275,000. The breakdown of this proposed request is as follows:

- \$137,500 for program design, outreach, staffing, and scholarship awards during year 1; and
- \$137,500 for program outreach, staffing, and scholarship awards during year 2.

Project Milestones: Program Design (Spring 2017); Program Outreach and Year 1 Scholarship Awards (Summer 2017); Year 1 Session (Fall 2017 through Spring 2018); Year 2 Scholarship Awards (Spring 2018); and Year 2 Session (Fall 2018 through Spring 2019).

Performance Measures: SBPG will gauge the success of the program by utility and economic impact.



VI. St. Bernard Parish Government Coastal Division Staff

SBPG has dedicated a total of 3% of all proposed RESTORE activity funds to reimbursing the parish for the administrative costs associated with complying with the RESTORE Act. This figure will also be attached to all subsequent RESTORE funding requests. Based on the activities included in this iteration of the SBPG RESTORE MIP, the parish has included a total of **\$54,750** for administrative costs.

The current SBPG Coastal Division staff members are as follows:

Executive Director of Coastal Affairs

John Lane
jlane@sbsp.net

Coastal Zone Management Administrator

William McCartney
wmccartney@sbsp.net

Coastal Advisor

Jerry Graves, Ph.D.
jgraves@sbsp.net

Coastal Advisor

Capt. George Ricks
gricks@sbsp.net



References

- Austin, Diane; Marks, B.; McClain, K., McGuire, T., McMahan, B., Phaneuf, V., Prakash, P., Rogers, B., Ware, C., Whalen, J. 2014. *Offshore oil and Deepwater Horizon: Social Effects on Gulf Coast Communities*, Volume I. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, New Orleans, LA. OCS Study BOEM 2014-617. 266 pp.
- Coastal Environments, Inc. 2012. St. Bernard Parish Coastal Zone Management Program Document. Retrieved from: <http://data.dnr.louisiana.gov/ABP-GIS/ABPstatusreport/StBCZMReport11052012.pdf>
- Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. 2012. Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast. Retrieved from: <http://coastal.la.gov/a-common-vision/2012-coastal-master-plan/>
- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency. 2012. Marine and Great Lakes Snapshots: 2009. Coastal Science Center. Retrieved from: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/snapshots/>
- Small Business Administration. 2013. Small Business Impacts Associated with the 2010 Oil Spill and Drilling Moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy. 148 pp.



Appendix A: Coastal Zone Advisory Committee Review

(To be completed following the 8/31/16 meeting)



Appendix B: Council Adoption

(To be completed following Council Adoption)



Appendix C: Other Coastal Restoration Activities

Planning

- The *Caernarvon Reforestation* and *Central Wetlands Reforestation* projects are both currently being scoped.

Design

- The *South Shell Beach Marsh Creation* project (\$28.1 million) has been funded for design through the CWPPRA program. This project will create and nourish over 600 acres of marsh. Design will be completed by late 2017.

Construction

- The *Lake Lery Marsh Creation* project (\$8 million) has been enhanced with a shoreline protection product and will be completed by the end of 2016. This project has created approximately 65 acres of marsh.
- The *Living Shoreline Demonstration* project (\$23.5 million) will test four different artificial reef and wave attenuation products in St. Bernard. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016.
- Sonar scanning for the *Violet Canal Safe Harbor* is complete. The marine debris removal portion of the project is going up for bid in September.

Pending Project Funding Requests

- The *Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation* project (\$25 million) was voted the #1 CWPPRA project in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin (February 2016). The CWPPRA Technical Committee subsequently voted the project #6 in the state (April 2016). The federal agencies involved in preparing this project have given mostly positive feedback thus far. The final vote for Phase 1 (Design) funding is on 12/7.
- The *Bayou Terre Aux Boeufs Ridge Restoration* project (\$10 million) was submitted to the US Corps of Engineers (USACE) for consideration through the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP 206). The USACE Mississippi Valley Division has since conducted a field visit and submitted the project to the Department of the Army for review. SBPG has also submitted a request for support from the Deputy Secretary of the Army.
- *Delacroix Highway Resilience* project (\$2 million) will be considered for state GOMESA funding in November 2016.
- *St. Bernard Parish Black Mangrove Planting Program* (\$260k) is pending a NOAA Coastal Resiliency Grant application.
- *Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program* (\$100k) is pending a NOAA Marine Debris Removal Grant application.



Appendix D: RESTORE Act Multiyear Implementation Plan Matrix and Narrative Forms

(To be completed following Council Adoption)