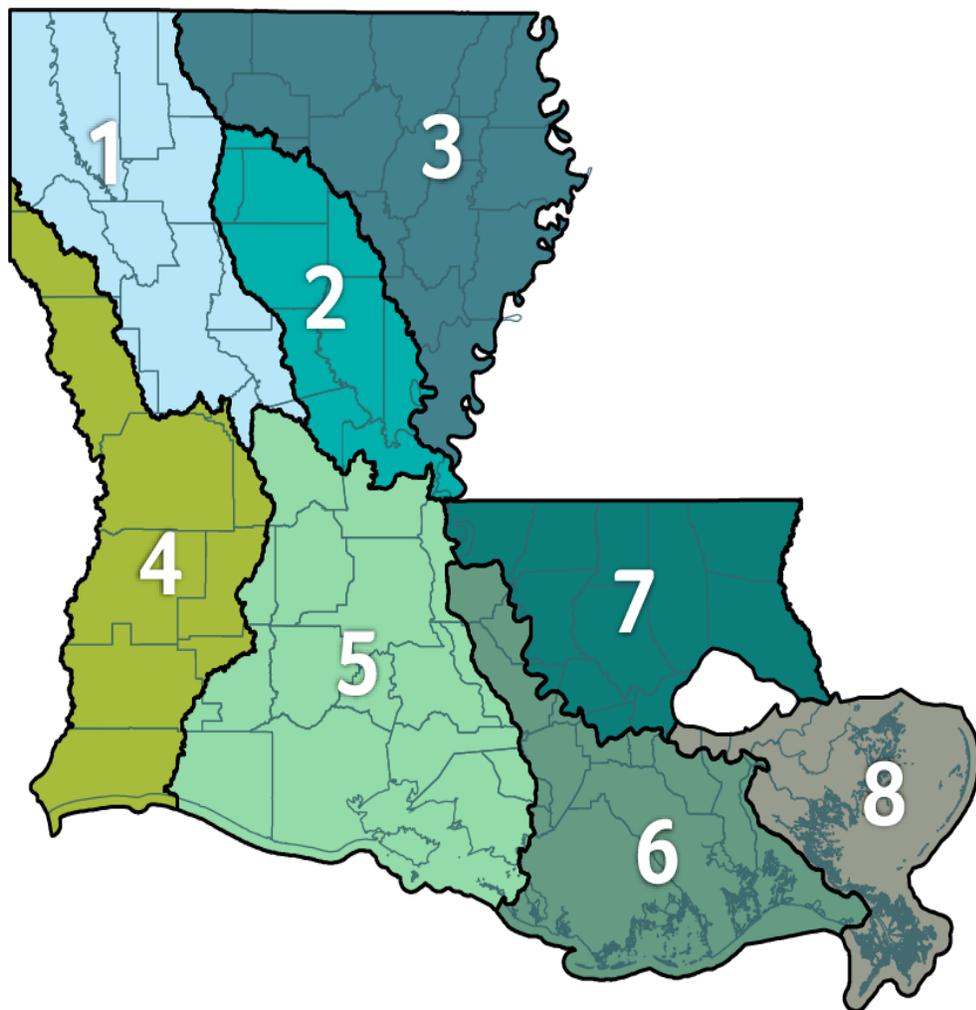


Coastal Zone

NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2019



Louisiana Watershed Initiative's Watershed Region Map

What's Inside:

Statewide Updates

From the 2023 Coastal Master Plan to the future of the Seafood Industry.

St. John the Baptist Updates

St. John's involvement in the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, a new potential funding source for the Maurepas Swamp Diversion, and updates on all coastal projects.

Coastal Use Permits

GOMESA REVENUE SHARING COALITION GOES TO WASHINGTON

Representatives from across the Gulf Coast, including Parish President Natalie Robottom, traveled to Washington, D.C. earlier this fall to advocate for a larger share of revenue from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). [Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama](#) are all pushing to increase the share of offshore royalties they receive from 37.5% to 50%. The bill is sponsored by Congressman Cedric Richmond and Congressman Garret Graves and is currently under Committee review.



South Louisiana Regional Updates



ALONG THE COAST

- St. John the Baptist Parish plans to submit several projects for inclusion in the updated [Coastal Master Plan](#).
- [Louisiana's Seafood Future](#) released results after surveying fishers, oyster fishers, shrimpers, and crabbers on what types of adaptation strategies they believe will make the industry more productive.
- Governor John Bel Edwards committed \$6 million to much needed levee improvements in [St. Charles Parish](#)
- The Governor also committed an additional \$5.6 million to [hurricane protection projects in Lafourche Parish](#).
- The CPRA announced the completion of [Cole's Bayou Marsh Creation Restoration Project](#) in Vermillion Parish.
- Governor Edwards has also committed [\\$30 million in surplus funds](#) for Lands, Easements, Rights of Way, and Disposal Sites needed for the construction of the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain hurricane protection project.



St. John the Baptist Coastal Project Updates

- **Belle Terre Streetscape and Stormwater Enhancement:** Design contract pending U.S. Treasury review.
- **LA SAFE Complete Streets:** GEC, Inc. selected as design firm; survey complete along Airline and Main Street.
- **LA SAFE Plan:** Adopted in September. A press release followed in L'Observateur.



St. John the Baptist Coastal Use Permits (CUP's)

- P20181001: On Hold
- P20190545: Open
- P20190416: Issued 10/30
- P20190156: Awaiting Payment
- P20191103: Open
- P20190136: Open

River Reintroduction into the Maurepas Swamp

Often referred to as the Maurepas Swamp Diversion, the objective of this project is to address the loss of land due to reduced sediment input from the Mississippi River and the periodic introduction of brackish water from Lake Maurepas. Once completed, this project will increase sediment and nutrient input to the Maurepas Swamp, ultimately benefitting 45,000 acres of land over the next 50 years.

In addition to the positive environmental impacts of this project, its construction will also provide a new opportunity for economic development within St. John the Baptist Parish. The project is currently under review by the CPRA to cover the costs of construction with State RESTORE dollars. The Parish plans to continue partnering with CPRA and other stakeholders as this project moves forward.

Traditional stormwater infrastructure aims to remove runoff from developed areas through a series of pipes and/or pumping systems. This practice has proven to be an inadequate method to protect communities from flooding events. Low impact development is a stormwater management strategy utilized with green infrastructure to guide, store, and treat stormwater at its source in ways that mimic nature.

The Low Impact Development Program is an audit of St. John's codes and ordinances to identify impediments that discourage the use of green infrastructure and other low impact practices. CSRS, Inc. recently completed the audit and provided recommendations on how to incorporate low impact development practices into our land development regulations.

The Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) seeks to manage flood risk within natural watershed boundaries, compared to jurisdictional boundaries. LWI divides the state into eight watershed regions. St. John is located in two regions: six and seven (see map, pg. 1). The selected fiscal agents for each are South Central Planning Commission and Capital Region Planning Commission, respectively.

Each Parish will select officials to serve on regional steering committees, which will exist for one year. During this time, members will compile a list of projects that meet the LWI's funding requirements. The first round of funded projects will be selected next spring. Additionally, the committee will create the region's watershed coalition to serve as a long-term framework for water management decisions.

Lake Pontchartrain Shoreline Protection

Lake Pontchartrain currently has 10 miles of unprotected shoreline within St. John the Baptist Parish. Recently, Parish President Robottom received approval for the issuance of \$9.5 million dollars of GOMESA funds to construct a breakwater system to reduce storm surge, slow down erosion and protect the existing shoreline. This proposed structure will benefit approximately 7,000 acres of critical wetlands and protect over 30 thousand residents from storm surge. The firm selected by the Parish will have extensive experience in coastal engineering projects and help bring this needed project to fruition.



Lake Borgne Breakwater, Mississippi