



# FLOODWATCH

*Educating, Planning, Protecting*

The Official Newsletter of the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association

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## *It's Hurricane Season!*

■ Tropical Cyclone Names 2020			
Atlantic Basin			
Arthur	Gonzalo	Marco	Teddy
Bertha	Hanna	Nana	Vicky
Cristobal	Isaias	Omar	Wilfred
Dolly	Josephine	Paulette	
Edouard	Kyle	Rene	
Fay	Laura	Sally	

### Newsletter Committee

Vicki Holmes, Editor/Chair

Mitch McDonald, Contributor

Erin Johnson Linderman,  
Photographer

# Notes from ASFPM Board Retreat

Submitted by Michelle Gonzales

The ASFPM Board Retreat was held in Madison WI February 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>. The three-day board retreat is an important time for board members to meet in person to discuss national and regional floodplain issues.

## **National Policy**

The board received report outs from ASFPM staff regarding policy changes related to NFIP Reauthorization, DRRA/Supplemental, WRDA, Digital Coast Act status, CDBG authorization, and NEPA changes. Each of these items are discussed with membership during the advertised policy webinars.

## **Climate Change Position**

Further the board discussed an update to the ASFPM Climate Change Position. The ASFPM Chair will be assigning an Ad HOC committee to review the current position and make recommendations for the board to consider by the June 2020 board meeting.



Continued next page

## Notes from ASFPM Board Retreat, cont.

If you have any thoughts or concerns regarding a change to the paper please contact your Region 6 Representative Michelle Gonzales @ [michelle.gonzales128@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.gonzales128@gmail.com).

### **Flood Science Center**

One of the lesser known benefits of ASFPM membership is the projects that are done by the Flood Science Center. Projects under way and completed can be found at <https://www.floodsciencecenter.org/>. A few that you can see on the home page is the updated Elected Officials Guide, Mapping the Nation, and Holistic Approach to Coastal Flood Risk Management. Check out the resources that the Flood Science Center has compiled in the library that can be beneficial for your daily Floodplain Management work.

### **Strategic Plan and Goals and Objectives**

The board retreat concludes each year with board members reviewing goals and objectives for the upcoming year. The 2020 Goals and Objectives can be found [here](#). Your Region 6 Representative Michelle Gonzales has been selected to be on the Ad HOC committee to prioritize the 2021 Goals and Objectives. Please review the 2020 document and let Michelle @ [michelle.gonzales128@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.gonzales128@gmail.com) know if you have any suggestions for changes or if one of the current goals is of great importance to you or your organization.


# St. Bernard Parish Waste Water Treatment Plant Floodproofing Project

Submitted by Vicki Holmes

### St. Bernard Parish Water Treatment Plant Improvements

In 2005, the St. Bernard Parish Water Treatment Plant in Louisiana was heavily damaged after Hurricane Katrina. The community acted quickly to design and construct a pump-station holding tank and raw water intake at the Treatment Plant.

Upgrades included raising the critical water components to the 500-year flood elevation of 12 feet and other added features that would mitigate potential damage from future storms and flooding.



Since 1989, the state of Louisiana has completed **1,135 mitigation projects** valued at **\$2.5 billion** in federally obligated funds. Of those mitigation projects, **43** are Utility and Infrastructure Protection projects valued at **\$216 million**.

### Waste Water Treatment Process

- 1 Waste water and sewage are pumped underground to be chemically treated
- 2 Large particles are separated out to be transported elsewhere and buried
- 3 Primary settling basins allow heavier material to sink and be scraped away
- 4 Bacteria break down harmful matter and clean the water until it is at a drinkable level
- 5 Water is chemically treated to kill bacteria, then fed back into the water supply



Modern building safety codes help ensure stronger, more resilient communities and protect crucial infrastructure that supports local water supply.

# FEMA Announces FY2019 FMA and PDM

## Status of Submissions

Submitted by Vicki Holmes

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the pre-award eligibility in sub-applications totaling nearly \$460 million submitted for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant funding. In addition, as part of the PDM program, FEMA set aside \$20 million for allocations of up to \$575,000 federal share for eligible planning and project subapplications from federally recognized tribes.

These competitive programs provide funding to states, tribes, territories and local governments for eligible mitigation activities to strengthen our nation's ability to reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages. For additional information about the funding priorities for both programs, visit the Notice of Funding Opportunities available at [Grants.gov](https://www.fema.gov/grants).

In the absence of a Congressional appropriation for the FY19 PDM grant cycle, FEMA allocated \$250 million from the required six percent set aside in Section 1234 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018. FEMA is transitioning from the legacy PDM program to a new program, Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities, which will launch later this year. There is no gap in mitigation assistance for state, local, territorial and tribal partners.

Over the last few weeks, FEMA reviewed each application to ensure that it is eligible, long-term, cost-effective, and technically feasible in reducing the impacts of hazards. A subapplication can be determined as one of three categories: "Identified for Further Review", "Not Selected" or "Does not Meet HMA Requirements".

FEMA Regions will work with applicants to conduct programmatic reviews of the selected "Identified for Further Review" subapplications before making a final decision for funding.

FEMA will *not* send initial notification letters to each applicant regarding their application status.

For the status of FY19 subapplications, applicants can review grant allocations online.

**Flood Mitigation Assistance:** <https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-fy-2019-subapplication-status>

**Pre-Disaster Mitigation:** <https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-program-fy-2019-subapplication-status>

FEMA will work with applicants to conduct programmatic reviews of the selected subapplications identified for further review before making a final decision. For additional information or any questions, grant applicants can contact their FEMA Regional Office. More information about Hazard Mitigation Assistance is available at [www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance](https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance).

## Louisiana gets \$155.7 million in offshore oil and gas money for coastal projects

Submitted by Vicki Holmes



Louisiana is getting a big boost this year in offshore oil revenue that is used to fund coastal restoration projects. The U.S. Department of the Interior announced Monday that the state would receive \$155.7 million for the current fiscal year, about \$58 million more than the [previous year](#).

The state Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority will get \$124.6 million of the money for fiscal year 2019, which can be used for flood protection and coastal restoration projects. The state's 19 coastal parishes will distribute about \$31 million.

The four oil-producing Gulf Coast states have been [lobbying for a bigger cut of the royalties](#) the federal government gets from drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Read the full story [here](#).

## 'It's too far gone': Old oil wells and pipelines doom big effort to save this Louisiana island

Submitted by Mitch McDonald

A Louisiana island President Theodore Roosevelt tried to save more than a century ago has been so damaged by the oil industry, so tangled with forgotten pipelines, gouged by canals and pockmarked by oil wells, that the state has finally decided to cut its losses and end a decades-long effort to restore it.

But that's not before pouring nearly \$20 million into East Timbalier Island's recovery, including more than \$7 million spent on planning and designing an ambitious new project that the state [Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority](#) quietly canceled a few weeks ago.

Read the full story [here](#).



# Major coastal restoration project advances to final vote for St. Bernard Parish

Submitted by Vicki Holmes

**Chalmette, LA** – St. Bernard Parish Government is pleased to announce another major coastal restoration project has advanced to the final statewide vote in the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Program.

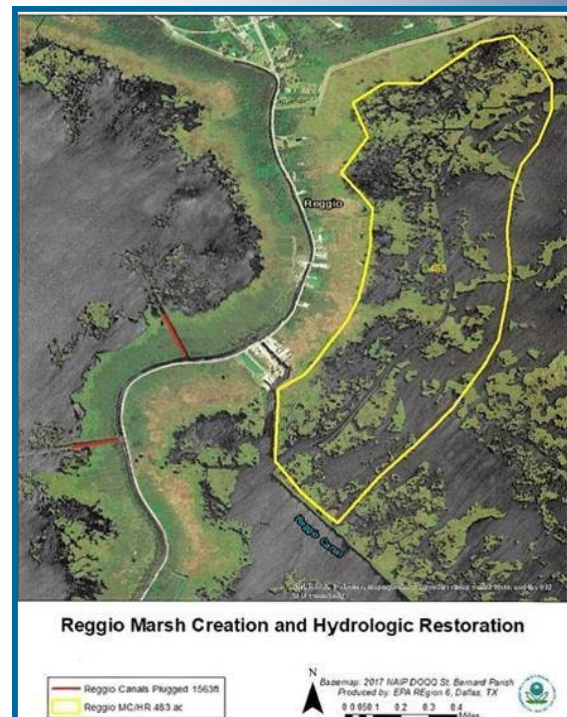
The project was developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and selected as part of a nomination process administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The CWPPRA Technical Committee will cast its final statewide vote and select four projects for Phase 1 (engineering and design) funding in December 2020.

The CWPPRA Technical Committee voted the Reggio Marsh Creation and Hydrologic Restoration project#1 statewide at its April 2020 meeting.

The proposed project would create or nourish approximately 483 acres of marsh east of Reggio and Delacroix.

The preliminary cost estimate is \$20-\$25 million.





# Major Hanson Canal Pump Station Update

Submitted by Mitch McDonald

From Terrebonne Parish President Gordon Dove

Great day for the citizens of Terrebonne and especially the citizens of Bayou Black as we turned on the Hanson Canal Pump. This massive pump station was one of the first priorities I had when I took office 4 years ago and I am proud to see it being completed! Thanks to the TPCG Council, Administration, Public Works Dept. and everyone else that helped on this project. Special thanks goes out to former Councilman [Al Marmande](#) for his dedication to getting this project up and running!



# Scalise, Governor Edwards Announce \$135 Million to Elevate LA Highway 1

Submitted by Mitch McDonald

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—House Republican Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.), Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, and Louisiana DOTD Secretary Shawn Wilson announced today that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will award \$135 million in Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant funding to the LA Highway 1 Improvement Project.

“After months of hard work, the Trump Administration’s award of \$135 million in federal INFRA funding to elevate LA Highway 1 is a major victory for our region’s safety and America’s energy security,” **said Whip Scalise.** “Elevating LA 1 has long been a top priority of mine, and I have worked closely for years with DOT Secretary Elaine Chao, Governor Edwards, and local leaders to secure this vital funding.

“As recently as June 8th, LA 1 was closed after becoming impassable due to flooding from Tropical Storm Cristobal. Along with being a hurricane evacuation route, LA 1 provides sole access to Port Fourchon and the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP). Elevating LA 1 is not only essential for the protection of Louisiana families, but absolutely vital for achieving American energy dominance and safeguarding access to our nation’s oil and natural gas supply. Securing the funding to complete LA 1 is not only great news for Southeast Louisiana, but for our Nation – I applaud President Trump and Secretary Chao for recognizing this importance and for providing the critical support needed for the LA 1 project.”

Read the full story [here](#).

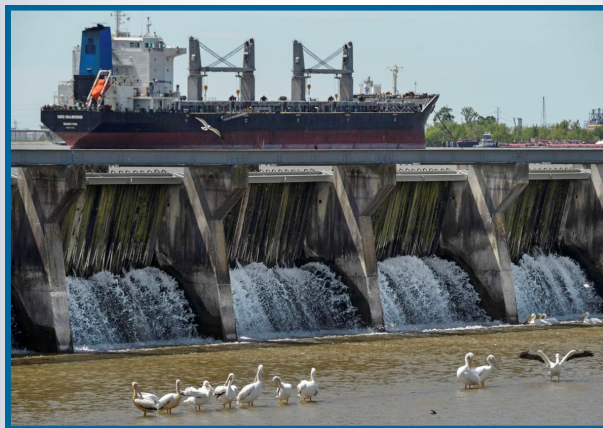
## Upriver diversions could ease New Orleans flood risk, reduce harmful spillway flows, study says

Submitted by Vicki Holmes

Punching two more holes in the sides of the Mississippi River could reduce New Orleans' flood risk while easing the environmental harm caused by frequent [Bonnet Carre Spillway](#) openings, a new study by [Tulane University](#) says.

Two river diversions the state plans to build upriver from New Orleans would cut the amount of water flowing through the spillway by 60% and reduce the duration of openings by about a third, according to digital simulations based on flows from the three spillway openings in 2018 and 2019. The Ama and Union diversions, which would channel river water through levees and into coastal marshes and bays, are identified as priority projects in the state's 2017 Coastal Master Plan, but they remain in the conceptual phase.

Read the full story [here](#).



# BRIC Summer Engagement Series

Submitted by Vicki Holmes

## Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) **SUMMER ENGAGEMENT SERIES**

BRIC is a new FEMA hazard mitigation program that replaces Hazard Mitigation Assistance's (HMA) existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program, aiming to categorically shift towards proactive investment in community resilience.

Beginning this July 1, HMA will be kicking off a month-long virtual series to help stakeholders understand the goals, objectives and key aspects of the new BRIC program. Additional details coming soon!

### Series Topic Overview

- ▶ Introduction to BRIC
- ▶ Meaning of the BRIC Program
- ▶ BRIC and Building Codes
- ▶ BRIC and Community Lifelines
- ▶ BRIC and Nature-Based Solutions

### Who is eligible for BRIC funding?



### BRIC Launch Timeline



■ Where we are now

*This graphic illustrates the estimated process and timing of the BRIC roll out, subject to change.*

To learn more about Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/bric>

# External Stakeholder Working Group Wants You!

Submitted by Vicki Holmes



## Join the External Stakeholder Working Group (ESWG)



### What is the ESWG?

The External Stakeholder Working Group provides an opportunity for FEMA staff to increase engagement and transparency with non-federal partners in the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs at the state, local, community or jurisdiction, tribal, or territorial levels.



To view the ESWG Expression of Interest Form, visit: [here](#).

Submit the completed Expression of Interest form via email to [FEMA-HMA-ESWG@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-HMA-ESWG@fema.dhs.gov).

**SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE JULY 10, 2020.**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## LFMA 37th Annual Business and Technical Conference

### **Floodplain Management 2020—What's Your Vision?**

*The LFMA Annual Conference which was scheduled to take place at the Marriott in Houma, LA, this past April has been rescheduled to September 30 - October 2, 2020 at the same location.*

We recognize the challenges with the new date and know that it may not be ideal for everyone. Extremely limited venue options along with anticipating when the virus may be contained led to selection of this timing. For your convenience, your LFMA 2020 April registration will be automatically transferred to the Sept-Oct dates. If you are unable to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can process your refund. Deadline to request a refund is September 15th, 2020. You will however need to book your hotel reservations. Booking link is on our website.

Please visit [www.lfma.org](http://www.lfma.org) for any and all updates related to the Annual Conference.

Our thoughts are with all of those impacted by COVID-19. Please know this decision was reached with the well-being and safety of our members as our top priority. We look forward to seeing you in September.



**Courtyard by Marriott**

**142 Library Drive**

**Houma, LA 70360**

Conference Contact: Lisa Ledet

[lisaledet@tpcg.org](mailto:lisaledet@tpcg.org)

985-873-6567

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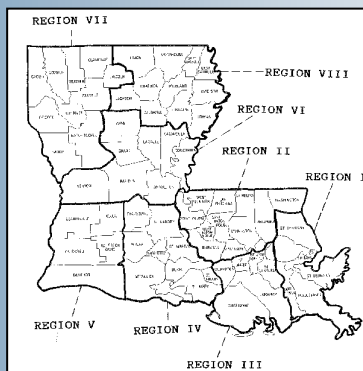
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