

LAFOURCHE PARISH REASSESSMENT COMMENTS OF CWPPRA

Lafourche Parish is dependent on an efficiently well managed restoration and maintenance program at the state and federal level. CWPPRA allows the Parish some involvement in working toward the Parish's goals and needs. The present system works well in some areas and falls short in areas like Lafourche and other parishes where land loss affects both ecosystems and infrastructure.

The CWPPRA system requires more flexibility to handle both small problem areas and larger system-wide problems. For the larger system-wide problems, CWPPRA selection process must include the social, infrastructure and community needs and benefits from projects. Although the environmental benefits may be equal, an acre of marsh protecting a road is more important than an acre of marsh in isolation.

Another major adjustment recommended by this parish is directing a much greater percentage of available funding to construction. Lafourche governmental agencies have contracted infrastructure and environmental projects with 85% or more of total cost for a program going to construction. A large improvement to CWPPRA would be to have 70% of all CWPPRA funds directed to construction.

The suggested changes are not a drastic departure from the present. These suggestions are an attempt to maximize the potential benefits for the people and ecosystems of South Louisiana.

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