



1 Conservation; the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency  
2 Preparedness; the lieutenant governor; and two ex-officio members designated by the  
3 president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives; and

4 WHEREAS, the powers and duties of the board require working in conjunction with  
5 state agencies, political subdivisions, including flood protection authorities, levee districts  
6 and federal agencies, as well as representatives from the Louisiana Legislature, to develop  
7 a state comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection (coastal master plan) to  
8 address integrated coastal protection efforts from both short-term and long-range  
9 perspectives, and to incorporate the structural, management, and institutional components  
10 of both efforts; and

11 WHEREAS, the board has engaged a state steering committee to assist with the  
12 development of the coastal master plan as directed by Governor John Bel Edwards'  
13 Executive Order No. JBE 2016-09, which requires all state agencies, departments, and  
14 offices to administer their regulatory practices and programs in a manner consistent with the  
15 coastal master plan; and

16 WHEREAS, in development of the coastal master plan, the board has also engaged  
17 a diverse group of key stakeholders to serve as the coastal advisory team (CAT) which began  
18 meeting in September of 2018, with meetings occurring every four to six months thereafter,  
19 to establish a clear vision for the 2023 coastal master plan consisting of members from the  
20 following groups: Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, building industry,  
21 chemical industry, oil and gas, ports and navigation, community representative, land  
22 conservation, recreational fishing, commercial fisheries, environmental and community  
23 nonprofit organizations, landowner representatives, local flood control, Louisiana  
24 Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources - office  
25 of coastal management, Louisiana Department of Economic Development - small business  
26 development, Louisiana Sea Grant, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources - marine  
27 fisheries office, Mississippi River Delta-Coalition, national advocacy group, National  
28 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - national marine fisheries services, parish  
29 representatives from the eastern, central, and western areas of coastal Louisiana, RESTORE  
30 Council, university/academic representative, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United

1 States Department of Agriculture - natural resources conservation service, and the United  
2 States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

3 WHEREAS, in addition to the CAT, the board also engaged a series of advisory  
4 groups to establish the 2023 coastal master plan, including a Predictive Modeling Technical  
5 Advisory Committee including scientists and engineers with national or international  
6 experience who cover a range of disciplines relevant to the 2023 coastal master plan to  
7 provide independent technical review, five regional workgroups representing five coastal  
8 regions to integrate local knowledge and expertise, and community engagement  
9 workgroups; and

10 WHEREAS, the coastal master plan shall include a list of projects and programs  
11 required for the protection, conservation, enhancement, and restoration of the coastal area,  
12 the action required of each agency to implement said project or program, and a schedule and  
13 estimated cost for the implementation of each project or program included in the plan; and

14 WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.3 requires that, as part of the development of the coastal  
15 master plan, the board shall conduct not less than three public hearings in separate locations  
16 in the western, central, and eastern areas of the coastal area for the purpose of receiving  
17 comments and recommendations from the public and elected officials; and

18 WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.3 also requires that at least two weeks prior to each public  
19 hearing, the board must contact the parish governing authorities, regional flood protection  
20 authorities, levee districts, and the state legislators of the parishes in the coastal areas for the  
21 purpose of soliciting their comments and recommendations and notifying them of the public  
22 hearing to be held in their area; and

23 WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.3 requires the board to receive written comments and  
24 recommendations until thirty days prior to the submission of the coastal master plan to the  
25 legislative committees; and

26 WHEREAS, the board has gone well above and beyond the public outreach required  
27 by law and in addition to meeting its obligations as set forth in R.S. 49:214.5.3, the board  
28 has: (1) hosted a total of four public hearings between January and February 2023 in the  
29 cities of Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Houma, and New Orleans, with a total of over three  
30 hundred attendees, (2) participated in ten community conversations sponsored by a coastal

