



Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program Management Conference Meeting

Agenda

Welcome

Lake Pontchartrain Restoration Program Overview

Role of the Management Conference (MC)

MC Organizational Outline

MC membership call

Next steps - MC / logistics

Adjourn

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program (PRP)

Anwar Jacintomoreno
EPA Region 6
September 5, 2023



Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program (PRP)

- ▶ Clean Water Act Program
- ▶ Established under the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000
- ▶ *“The purpose of the program shall be to restore the ecological health of the Basin by developing and funding restoration projects and related scientific and public education projects.”*
- ▶ It is one of 12 EPA Geographic Programs



[https://thebeachuno.org/
lake-pontchartrain-basin-
restoration-program/](https://thebeachuno.org/lake-pontchartrain-basin-restoration-program/)

PRP Basin Map

- ▶ The "Basin" means the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, it expands approximately 10,000 square miles watershed encompassing 16 parishes in Louisiana and 4 counties in Mississippi.
- ▶ This delineation was done using the most recent USGS National Map high-resolution data.



Parishes and Counties within PRP Basin

❖ Louisiana Parishes

- ▶ Ascension
- ▶ East Baton Rouge
- ▶ East Feliciana
- ▶ Iberville
- ▶ Jefferson
- ▶ Livingston
- ▶ Orleans
- ▶ Plaquemines

❖ Louisiana Parishes cont.

- ▶ St. Bernard
- ▶ St. Charles
- ▶ St. Helena
- ▶ St. James
- ▶ St. John the Baptist
- ▶ St. Tammany
- ▶ Tangipahoa
- ▶ Washington

❖ Mississippi Counties

- ▶ Amite
- ▶ Lincoln
- ▶ Pike
- ▶ Wilkinson



Key program component: Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

- ❖ The CCMP is a plan that establishes long term priorities for research and funding for the Basin.
- ❖ The current PRP CCMP was developed in 1995 and is under revision.
- ❖ Projects funded by RFPs need to be consistent with the CCMP.



Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- ❖ \$53 Million in additional funding to the PRP over the next five years (over \$10 m/yr)
- ❖ Additional Environmental Justice and Climate adaptation components
- ❖ Part of government wide Justice 40 initiative (J40)
 - ▶ National Goal: target at least 40% of investments and benefits to disadvantaged communities
 - ▶ EPA is developing an equity strategy for PRP to implement J40

Grantee

- ❖ University of New Orleans Research and Technology Foundation (UNORTF)
- ❖ Pass-through Grantee:
 - ▶ Prepare and issue Request for Proposals (RFPs) from eligible entities
 - ▶ Awards, administer and monitor subawards



<https://unofoundation.org>

PRP Project requests and approval process

PRP project funds are awarded through a competitive process



UNORTF issues a Request for Proposals (RFP)



Eligible entities apply for funding



Proposals go through a review and selection process

Who can apply for project funds?

❖ Eligible recipients include:

- ▶ Federal organizations
- ▶ State organizations
- ▶ Interstate organizations
- ▶ Local governments
- ▶ Federally recognized tribes
- ▶ Regional water pollution control agencies
- ▶ Public agencies
- ▶ Non-profits
- ▶ Public and private institutions of higher education

Examples of Projects Funded

Habitat and Coastal Preservation Projects:

- Lake Pontchartrain Lake Villa Site Improvements and Marsh Monitoring
- Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation Ecosystem Restoration and Preservation Program

Monitoring & Research:

- Pollution Source Tracking for Water Quality Restoration in the Bayou Bonfouca Watershed
- Mandeville Lakefront Wetlands Restoration

Examples of Projects Funded



Stormwater:

Landscape and Stormwater Management Design Plan for Bucktown Marina Ecology Park

St. Bernard Parish Rain Gauge Data Collection and Wastewater Flow Monitoring Program

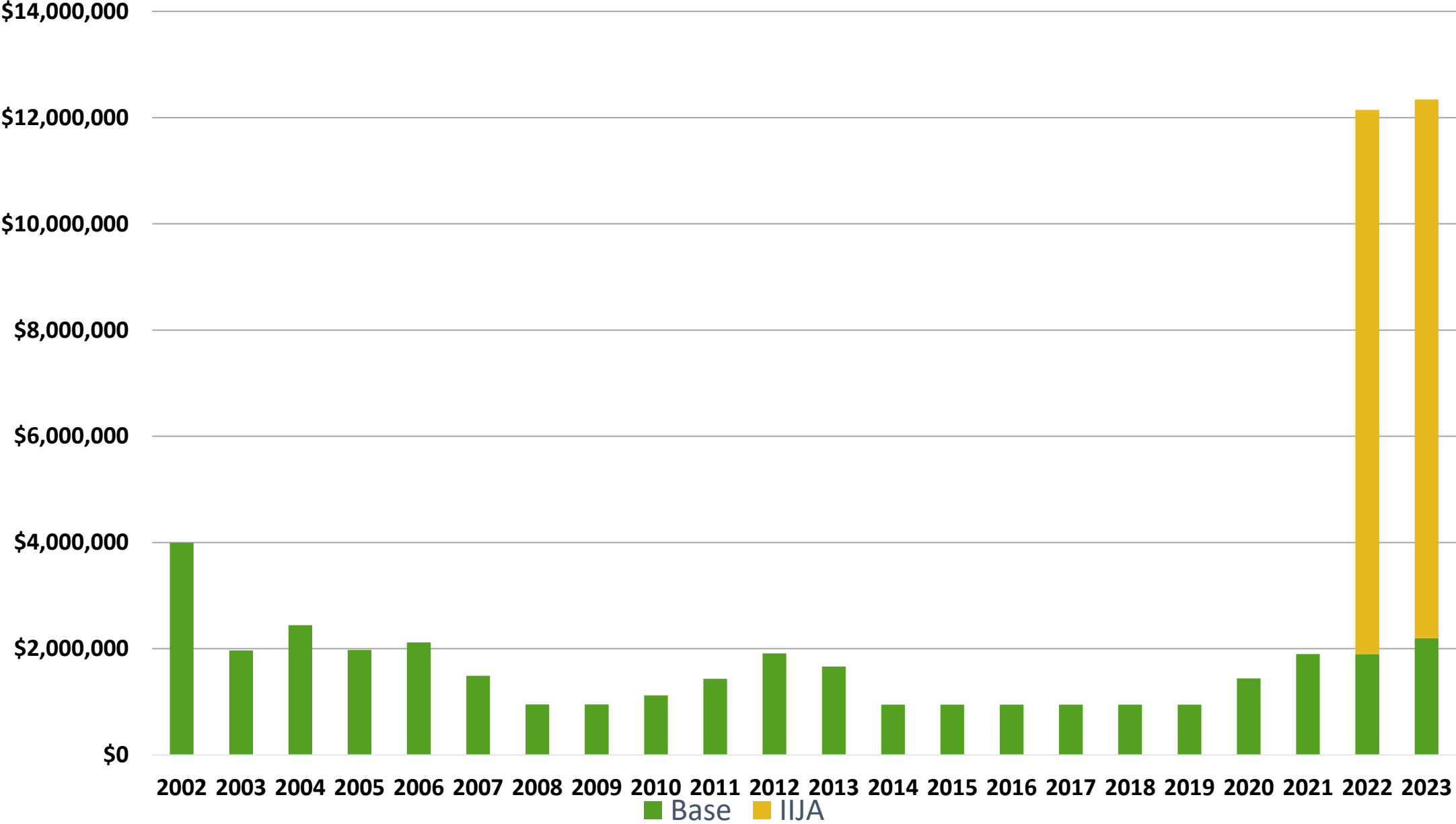


Education and Outreach Projects:

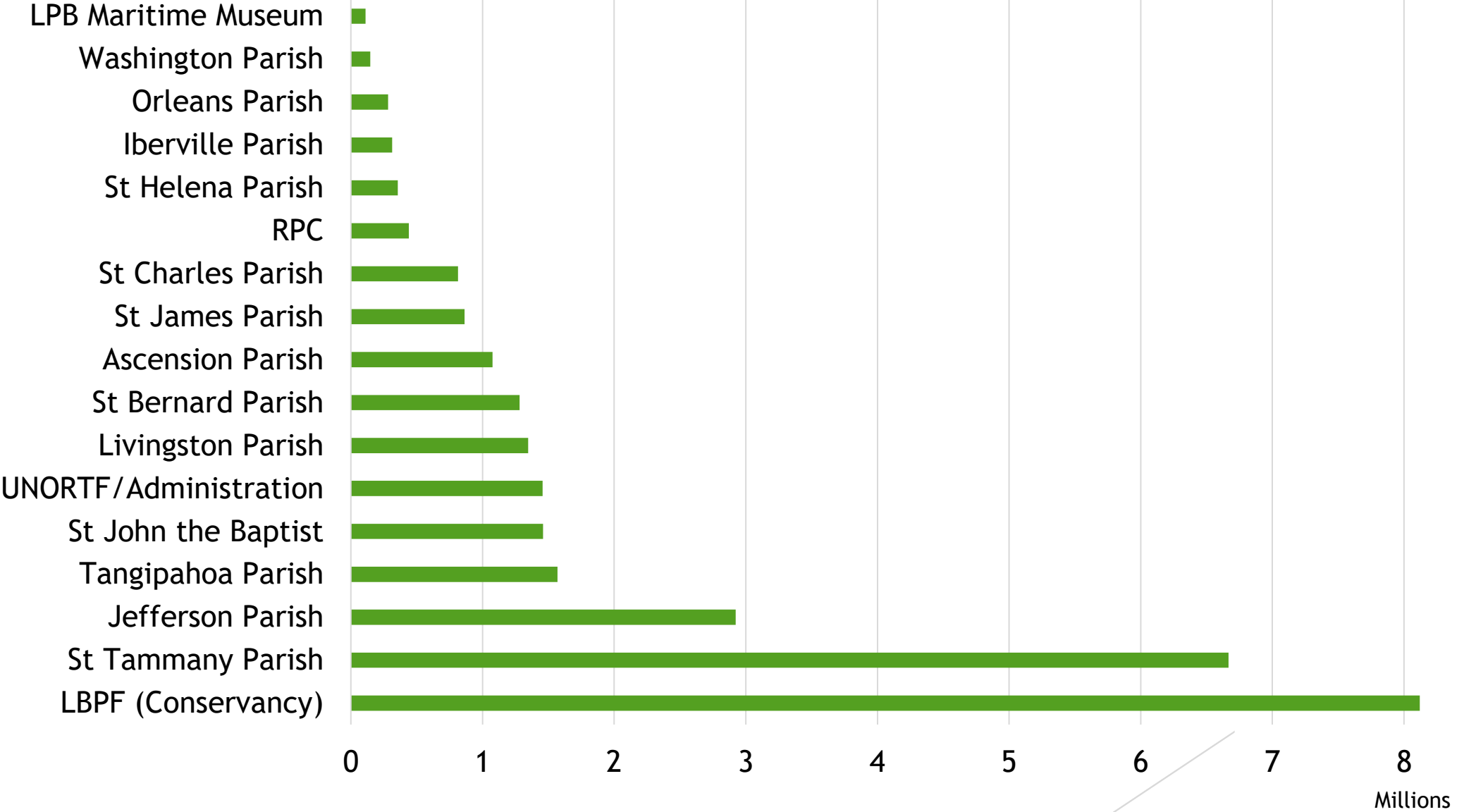
Promoting Urban Gardening for Strategic Stormwater Management Program

Land Conservation Study for Strategic Stormwater Runoff Mitigation

PRP Funding



Program Funding: 2002-2020



Source: University of New Orleans Research and Technology Foundation 2023

Total Amount Funded Over \$29M

Historical Funding

- Total of 16 sub-grantees
- 249 total projects funded including elements of:
 - 181 Wastewater Related Projects
 - 33 Stormwater (includes Green Infrastructure Projects)
 - 21 Habitat Restoration
 - 25 Surface Water Monitoring
 - 39 Education & Outreach driven

PRP Base and IIJA Funding

❖ Base Funding

- ▶ FY 2022 \$1,899,000
- ▶ FY 2023 \$2,199,000

❖ IIJA funding is providing an additional \$53 million over FY 2022 - 2026





PRP Base and IIJA Funding

- ❖ PRP Funding awarded
 - FY2022 base funds are being processed
 - RFP announcement coming soon
 - FY2022 IIJA funds will be processed by the end of September 2023



Management Conference



Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program (PRP)

-
- ∅ Clean Water Act Section 121 33 U.S.C. § 1273 requires PRP to have a **Management Conference**.
 - ∅ Aligned with 33 U.S.C. § 1330 National Estuary Program (NEP).
 - ∅ A Management Conference (MC) consists of diverse stakeholders and uses a collaborative, consensus-building approach.
 - ∅ Members of the MC are active participants in overseeing the implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

Roles of the Management Conference

Helps guide the development/revisions of the CCMP that addresses the current needs of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin

Coordinates implementation of the CCMP with federal, state, and local partners and community groups

Monitors the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to the CCMP

Increases public education and awareness of the ecological health and water quality conditions within the Lake Pontchartrain Basin

Members of Conference

EPA
Representative

State, Interstate,
or Regional
Agencies

Federal Agencies

Local
Governments

Affected:

Industries, Public and Private Educational
Institutions, Non-Profit Organizations, and
the General Public

Examples of Management Conference Structure

EPA R6 National Estuary Programs

Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP)

- Board of Directors
 - Committees, task forces, advisory groups as necessary
- Stakeholders
- The Bays Council
 - Comprised of one designated rep. of each of the partners and implementers of the program, and those designated by the Board of Directors
- The Bays Council Coordination Team
 - Assists CBBEP by supporting implementation teams
 - Resolves differences over procedural and budgetary issues
- Board of Directors meeting occur monthly

Examples of Management Conference Structure

EPA R6 National Estuary Programs

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP)

- BTNEP - Management Conference
- Action Plan Teams (APTs)
 - APTs develop the annual work plans
 - submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the guidance of BTNEP Program Office (BTPO) staff.
- The BTNEP MC meets quarterly
- The MC approves the annual workplan

Examples of Management Conference Structure

EPA R6 National Estuary Programs

Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP)

- The Galveston Bay Council: the TCEQ appointed the Council, a 41-member advisory committee
- Many stakeholder groups are represented on the Council
- Subcommittees of the Council meet quarterly, or more frequently if needed
 - This includes developing projects and programs to fulfill implementation activities outlined in the CCMP
- All 4 subcommittees of the Council develop annual work plans
 - Projects vetted and developed collaboratively using the annual budget