

AMITE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

# ANNUAL PLAN 2024

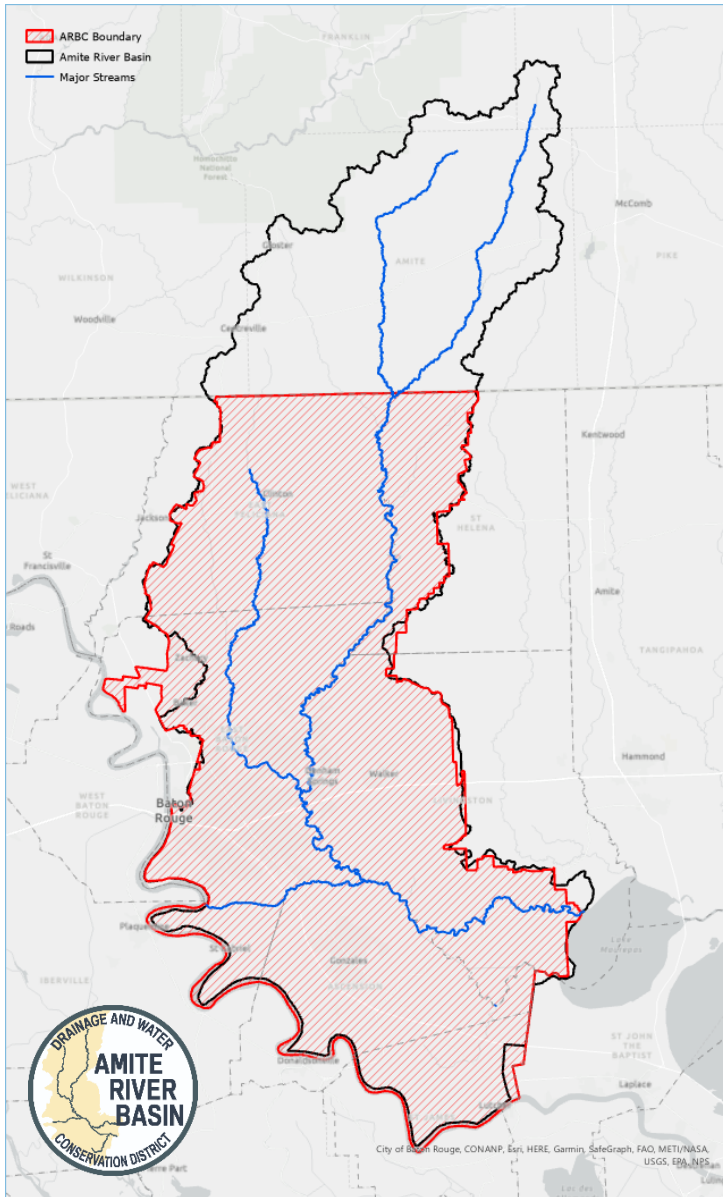






The Amite River Basin Commission (ARBC) is required by Act 490 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session to develop annual plans for watershed management. Each annual plan shall include, at minimum, a three-year projection of funding for projects and programs, including funding sources. The plan shall be consistent with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Master Plan. The plan shall provide for public outreach and public hearings in at least northern, central, and southern portions of the district. The plan shall be subject to legislative approval. The board shall submit its initial annual plan by January 1, 2024.

## Executive Board



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ARBC President  
Iberville Parish Designee

**JACK H. HARRIS**  
ARBC Vice-President  
At-Large

**LIONEL L. BAILEY, SR.**  
ARBC Finance Chairman  
At-Large; Engineer

**REP. ROBBY CARTER**  
St. Helena Parish Designee

**HON. CLINT COINTMENT**  
Ascension Parish Designee

**MARK HARRELL**  
Livingston Parish Designee

**EDWIN 'ED' PARKER**  
E. Feliciana Parish Designee

**FRED RAIFORD**  
E. Baton Rouge Parish Designee

**KENNETH DAWSON**  
At-Large

**BRIN FERLITO, PE, PTOE**  
At-Large; Engineer

**LEEANN R. FITCH, PE, CFM**  
At-Large; Engineer

**GARY M. O'NEAL, JR., CFM**  
At-Large; Certified Floodplain Manager

**HON. PETE DUFRESNE**  
St. James Parish Designee

**BREN HAASE**  
CPRA Designee

**MONICA SALINS GORMAN**  
PLD Designee

**EDWARD KNIGHT, PE**  
DOTD Designee

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## Acronyms & Abbreviations

ARB	Amite River Basin
ARBC	Amite River Basin Commission
ARBIC	Amite River Basin Interagency Committee
BBA18	Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018
BMP	Best Management Practice
BRIC	Federal Emergency Management Agency Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities grant program
CPRA	Coastal Protection and Restoration Agency
CRDC	Comite River Diversion Canal
CRS	National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System
CWA	Clean Water Act
DOTD	Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
EBR	East Baton Rouge
EBRP	East Baton Rouge Parish
EIS	Environmental Impact Study
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Mitigation Assistance
FP&C	State of Louisiana Office of Facility Planning and Control
GOHSEP	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
H&H	Hydrologic and Hydraulic
HCR 46	House Continuing Resolution 46 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature
HD-FIM	High-definition flood inundation map
HMGP	Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
LDEQ	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
LWFCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
LWI	Louisiana Watershed Initiative
NBS	Nature Based Solutions
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NPS	Nonpoint Source
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
PLD	Pontchartrain Levee District
PROTECT	Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation Discretionary Grant Program
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SMP	Stormwater Master Plan

<b>The District</b>	The Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District
<b>USACE</b>	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
<b>WFPO</b>	Watershed Protect and Flood Prevention Program
<b>WSE</b>	Water Surface Elevation

# 1. ARBC History & Formation

## 1.1. Amite River Basin Flooding

The Amite River Basin (ARB) encompasses about 2,200 square miles in southeastern Louisiana and southwest Mississippi. It includes portions of East Baton Rouge, Ascension, Livingston, East Feliciana, St. Helena, Iberville, St. James and St. John the Baptist parishes in Louisiana, and Wilkinson, Lincoln, Franklin, and Amite counties in Mississippi. The 170-mile-long Amite River and its right bank tributary, the Comite River, begin in southwestern Mississippi and flow generally southward to their confluence, east of Baton Rouge in the vicinity of Denham Springs.

The ARB is subject to four general types of flooding:

1. *Localized Flash Flooding* from intense, short periods of nearby rain; especially rapid inundation of poorly drained ponding areas,
2. *Downstream Flooding* from precipitation in upper portions of watersheds, sub-basins, and basins, and then collecting and flowing downstream and inundating the floodplains in lower portions,
3. *Backwater Flooding* within the floodplain of a very mild-sloped tributary to a sluggish reach of a major river during a flood, from flood flow piling up and sometimes reversing., and
4. *Coastal Flooding* in floodplains of coastal waterbodies, including rivers, from extreme tides and prolonged high storm winds.

Flooding conditions across the ARB have been affected by the following:

1. Lack of Maintenance
  - a. Neglect of “Navigable Waters of the State”,
  - b. Over-restrictive government regulations, and
  - c. Funding challenges.
2. Public, Private, and Commercial Development
  - a. Increased impervious surfaces and urban sprawl,
  - b. Development within the floodplain, and sand and gravel mines, and
  - c. Hydromodifications to increase flow, capacity, and access.
3. Environmental Factors
  - a. Loss of natural habitat and wetland areas,
  - b. Sea level rise in Lake Maurepas, and
  - c. Increases in extreme weather events’ intensity and frequency.

In the ARB, as throughout the nation, the public and local government agencies largely rely on FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for flood hazard information. In addition to lacking full-spectrum flood hazard information, many ARB FIRMs are significantly outdated.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> High-Definition Flood Inundation Map for the August 2016 Flood. Bob Jacobsen PE, LLC. August 29, 2022.



Professional studies beginning in the mid-1900s have documented significant basin flood events in 1921, 1928, 1942, 1947, 1953, 1957, 1962, 1964, 1967, March 1973, April 1977, April 1979, April 1983, August 1983, October 1985, January 1990, January 1993, January 1994, June 2001, August 2016, and May 2021. Over time, the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area including East Baton Rouge, Ascension, and Livingston Parishes have expanded into the floodplain to accommodate growing populations. This partially accounts for the increase in flood frequency as well as flood damages. Other reasons include decreasing channel capacity, increased channel constrictions, channel diversions, drainage of swamps, and inaccurate flood mapping used for development planning.<sup>2</sup>

The persistent flooding events in the Amite River Basin have driven the need for this Commission tasked with the mission to ***mitigate flood damage, coordinate river management, promote responsible watershed management, and to conserve and restore the unique natural resources in the Amite River Basin watershed.***

Watershed management and floodplain management are often incorrectly used interchangeably; however, they are different.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), watershed management is the study of the relevant characteristics of a watershed aimed at the sustainable distribution of its resources and the process of creating and implementing plans, programs, and projects to sustain and enhance watershed functions that affect the plant, animal, and human communities within the watershed boundary. Features of a watershed that agencies seek to manage include water supply, water quality, drainage, stormwater runoff, water rights and the overall planning and utilization of watersheds. Landowners, land use agencies, stormwater management experts, environmental specialists, water use surveyors and communities all play an integral part in watershed management.<sup>3</sup>

According to FEMA, floodplain management is a community-based effort to prevent or reduce the risk of flooding, resulting in a more resilient community. It involves multiple groups with a stake in protecting their communities from flooding and carries out functions including zoning, building codes, enforcement, education, and other tasks. It also aims to achieve the wise use of the nation's floodplains, meaning both reduced flood losses and protection of the natural resources and function of floodplains.<sup>4</sup>

Therefore, floodplain management is just one component of watershed management.

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<sup>2</sup> Amite River Basin Floodplain Management Plan. G.E.C Inc. November 2015.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wp/Documents/California%20Watershed%20Program.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management>

## 1.2. Legislation History

In 1967, the U.S. Congress asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to study the Amite River flood problems. The Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District (the “District”) was created in 1981 by the Louisiana Legislature through Act 896, and it included all the territory within the watershed limits of the Amite River and Tributaries Basin in Louisiana, encompassing the parishes of East Baton Rouge, St. Helena, Livingston, and those portions east of the Mississippi River in Ascension and St. James Parishes. The original legislation was designed to establish the District as a regional non-federal entity to cooperate with both state and federal governments in establishing major flood control efforts. Additionally, the District was given the authority to levy a drainage tax, subject to approval by a majority of voters in the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District. This was amended in 1984 to establish a maximum levy of 3 mills and removed the provision requiring a vote of the people.

Amendments to the enabling legislation were made in 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1989, and 1991. In 1982, East Feliciana Parish was added to the original language, and changes were made to the number of Board members. Amendments in 1983 were administrative, relating to the appointment and length of the term of commissioners to the Board. In 1984, amendments were made to change the boundaries of the Basin in Ascension and St. James parishes from the Mississippi River eastward to U.S. Highway 61. This was part of an agreement with the Pontchartrain Levee District that provided the District with its first significant funding—in exchange for removing the major industrial areas of those District parishes that also lay within the boundaries of the Levee District. As a result of these changes and exclusion of the watershed area in Mississippi, the Amite River Basin District boundaries do not reflect the Basin's physiographic boundaries. Also, in a 1984 amendment, the subsection that had limited the District's authority to regulate or affect the operation of any gravel mining business was repealed.

Following an in-house study by Brown & Butler in 1984, the State hired that firm to review the feasibility of constructing a reservoir in the upper Amite River Basin. The study recommended that a wet reservoir be constructed near Darlington. Based on this recommendation, the State applied to the USACE for a construction permit for the reservoir. This required an Environmental Impact Study (EIS), for which the State then hired the firm of Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc.

The 1985 amendments dealt with the right of entry and expropriation. By 1989, with the studies complete, the ARBC recommended to the Governor that the State proceed with its efforts to construct a wet reservoir. Meanwhile, the 1989 amendments revised the District's authority to levy up to a three-mill drainage tax by adding a provision that required any mill levy to be approved by a majority of the voters within the District, and that those parishes that do not approve such a levy by a majority be exempted.

In 1990, Governor Roemer established the Governor's Interagency Task Force on Flood Prevention and Mitigation through an Executive Order to examine and make recommendations on measures to mitigate floods in the Amite River Basin. Additionally, it required that a coordinated interagency review be made of existing and potential solutions to identify and expedite the implementation of effective flood damage reduction measures. This study recommended the construction of a dry reservoir near Darlington, among other programs, and invited the USACE to reestablish studies that had been discontinued in 1985.

As a result of another recommendation, Governor Roemer issued an Executive Order in 1991 that established the Amite River Basin Interagency Committee (ARBIC). The purpose of ARBIC, comprised of appropriate state agencies, is to provide the technical assistance necessary to the District in developing and implementing flood loss reduction programs; to serve as the State's single point of contact for the District and tributary projects with the USACE; and to serve as the District's coordination group for economic development studies for East Feliciana and St. Helena parishes—the areas where the proposed reservoir would be constructed.

Further amendments were made to the original legislation in 1991 to establish ARBC in the role previously identified for the Office of Public Works. In addition, reports from committees formed as a result of the Governor's Interagency Task Force were developed in 1991. One report identified improvements that could be made to the ARBC for improving the operations and administration of the District. Another report was developed which analyzed the impacts of the sand and gravel mining industry upon Amite River flooding and provided recommendations for improvement and changes.

In 1991, the first legislative appropriation of funds to support the operations of the District was passed. A full-time staff was hired, and a Basin-wide newsletter was initiated to serve the District's Community Rating System program. The District provided support to parish and municipal governments to join the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS). This program grants credits to local governments whose floodplain management program efforts exceed the minimum requirements. These credits are, in turn, used to reduce every NFIP policyholder's flood insurance premiums within each community. As part of the CRS program, the ARBC also sponsors Flood Awareness Week activities.

The ARBC's efforts in 1991 gained the District national attention during 1992. In February, the first-ever "field trip" of the national Federal Interagency Task Force on Floodplain Management was conducted in the Amite River Basin. This effort led to grant applications for this planning effort and a multiple-objective river corridor management study that would tie together the interests and needs of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Park Service (NPS) with those of floodplain, water quality, economic development, and recreation management. A multi-objective management program was still being pursued. In 1992, the State Legislature provided an increased level of funding for District activities.

In 1999, Act 1045 formally and legally defined the basin using a lengthy metes and bounds description. For the most part, the boundaries matched the hydraulic boundaries of the Amite River Basin; however, a small notch of East Baton Rouge Parish along the Mississippi River in the petrochemical plant area, and a much larger area south of Highway 61 containing an area of Iberville Parish and areas of Ascension and St. James Parishes were excluded from the ARBC jurisdiction. The small area in EBRP was reportedly excluded because it encompasses the petrochemical plants. The larger area south of Highway 61 was reportedly excluded to reduce conflict with the Pontchartrain Levee District (PLD), which has jurisdiction and performs projects there. The Act also defined a "Comite River Diversion Canal Impact Area" largely but not entirely located within the ARBC jurisdiction. It was defined using another lengthy metes and bounds description, and also hand-drawn on maps by ARBC and adopted by the Legislature, intended to describe the area benefited by the Comite River Diversion Channel Project and solely to provide a taxing area specific to that project, independent of the rest of the ARBC jurisdiction. The CRDC Impact Area protrudes from the full ARBC jurisdiction near Zachary, to the west, following the right of way of the diversion channel.

In 2014, Representative Hodges and Senator White created the Amite River Diversion Canal Project Taskforce to study and make recommendations on actions necessary to complete the construction of the canal. This taskforce is made up of various stakeholders and the resolution has been renewed each year and reports to the full legislature concerning its findings.

In 2018, Act 539 was passed requiring the board to hold public meetings in public buildings in East Baton Rouge, Ascension and Livingston Parishes. The legislation requires that the board meet at least on a quarterly basis.

House Continuing Resolution 46 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature (“HCR 46”) requested the Governor’s Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities to “coordinate a comprehensive assessment and study relative to management of the Amite River Basin, including areas authorized under the federal Amite River and Tributaries Project.” In particular, HCR 46 requested assessment of floodplain management in the ARB, including drainage, flood control, and water resource management. HCR 46 further requested the Executive Assistant to conduct and submit a report of this study, along with recommendations for statutory, rule, regulation, or policy changes to management of the ARB.

Senate Resolution 164 was passed in 2022 requesting the Watershed Advisory Committee to establish the Amite River Basin Commission as a separate watershed district. Initially, the basin was included in Region 7 which included the entirety of the Florida Parishes. In 2023, LWI Advisory Committee approved the creation of Region 9, which includes the entire Amite River Basin in Louisiana.

In 2022, pursuant to the 2021 House Continuing Resolution 46, Act 490 was promulgated. This act made significant changes to the makeup and governance of the ARBC. The changes are detailed below:

- The geographical bounds of the district were modified to include all portions of the geographical area within the watershed limits of the Amite River and Tributaries Basin; specifically, to include those portions of Iberville, Ascension, and St. James parishes south of Highway 61 previously excluded from law. It also required the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to submit to the legislature a detailed legal description of the Amite River and Tributaries Basin watershed.
- The board shall comprehensively manage the district as a single system.
- The number of commissioners was increased from 13 to 16, and the makeup of the board was changed, providing that seven members shall be parish presidents representing the parishes making up the district, or their designee, and will serve ex officio without appointment. Three non-voting advisory members shall be comprised of the executive director of the CPRA, or their designee; the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), or their designee; and the executive director of the PLD, or their designee. The remaining six shall be appointed by the governor to serve at large, and will serve four-year terms staggered with three positions expiring every two years; initial terms are two years for three commissioners and four years for three commissioners. All at large commissioners are subject to senate confirmation from nominations submitted by the representatives and senators whose districts include any portion of the district. Commissioner nominees are encouraged, but not required, to reside in the district or any particular parish within it. Each legislator within the district may nominate up to two persons meeting the qualification requirements per vacant position. If no nominees meeting the qualification requirements are submitted for a seat, the governor may choose their own. All six at large commissioners shall have at



least seven years of professional experience in their discipline, of which at least four must be engineers, project managers, certified floodplain managers, or professionals in a drainage-related field such as geotechnical, hydrological, or environmental science. Parish commissioner designees are encouraged to be, but need not be, professionals; however, priority will be given to nominees that reside in the district or any parish within it.

- The board is required to promulgate regulations for watershed management within the district to address planning; permitting; selection of and performing projects and programs; resolution of conflicts among agencies; use of best available science; outreach to the public and agencies; coordination with state agencies and political subdivisions regarding watershed management; identifying, seeking, receiving, and expending federal and other funding for planning and projects; providing assistance to political subdivisions in planning, designing, and constructing projects, and identifying and obtaining funding; agreements with public and private entities to identify, seek, receive, and expend funds; maintaining projects and programs once complete; providing an appeal process; defining qualifications for staff and contractors; and creating and managing a wetland mitigation bank.
- All projects are required to receive approval of two-thirds of the total voting membership, and all decisions, including technical aspects of projects, planning and permitting decisions, require approval by a simple majority of the voting membership.
- The board is required to develop and implement a plan to manage all waterways in the district in relation to matters impacting watershed management in the district. Placing a heavy focus and constant emphasis on plans that include project inventories, implementation plans, and strategies to maximize the use of innovative funding strategies such as public-private partnerships, pursuit of grant funding, capital outlay requests, and millage initiatives to the extent necessary to timely fund and implement the board's planned projects and programs.
- The commission shall create a Master Plan for comprehensive drainage, flood control, and water resource management within the district, which shall address both long- and short-term watershed management, including lists of projects, costs, and selection criteria, and is subject to annual approval of both the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works.
- The commission shall create an Annual Plan that includes, at a minimum, a three-year projection of funding for projects and programs, including funding sources, to be submitted to the parish presidents and parish governing authorities representing the parishes making up the district, the legislature, and a committee of representatives and senators whose districts include any portion of the Amite River Basin. The annual plans are subject to approval of both the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works.
- Each parish within the district is required to submit an initial hazard mitigation plan by Jan. 1, 2023, and thereafter to submit a hazard mitigation plan to the board every five years. Those parishes are also required to cooperate with the board to ensure that the impacts of drainage, flood control, and water resource management are considered in the development of each hazard mitigation plan, and prioritization is given to the reduction of flood risk and flood insurance premiums.
- The commission is required to investigate contracting with the state of Mississippi for the purpose of collaborative projects relative to watershed management in the basin.

- Voting for taxes levied by the board will now be by everyone in the district, and not by individual parish. Taxes levied by the board are also no longer capped at three mills.
- Parishes, municipalities, drainage districts, levee districts, and other political subdivisions in the district are allowed to transfer or donate funds to the board, and the board is allowed to accept such funds.
- The Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District cannot initiate any project or program within the limits of the Pontchartrain Levee District without consulting with and receiving approval from the board of commissioners of the Pontchartrain Levee District.

## 2. Historic Projects

The following are completed or substantially complete projects that ARBC has had direct oversight over.

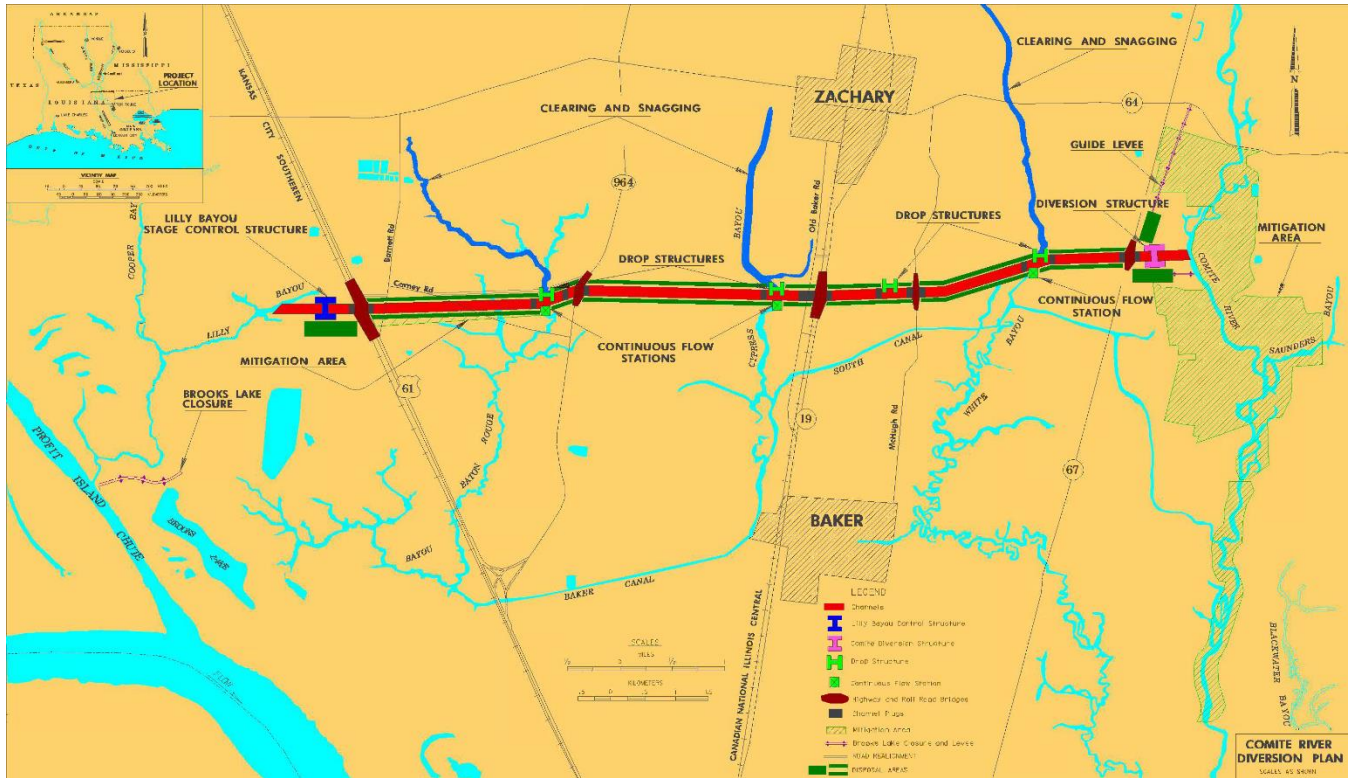
### 2.1. Comite River Diversion Canal Project

- **Cost:** \$970,000,000
- **Owner:** US Army Corps of Engineers
- **Sponsor:** Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, East Baton Rouge Parish, ARBC
- **Funding source:** BBA18
- **Current Phase:** Ongoing (substantially complete)

Authorized by Congress in August 1999, the purpose of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is to divert flood waters from the Upper Comite River to the Mississippi River. At its maximum capacity the project will divert 20,000 cubic feet per second by gravity flow. This represents approximately 40% of the flood waters from the upper Comite River, substantially reducing flood stages along the lower Comite and Amite Rivers.

Construction of the Lilly Bayou Control Structure and the 1-mile pilot channel was completed in 2011. Since 2012, the non-federal sponsors took on the responsibility of acquiring property for the Project, but USACE halted construction of the project due to lack of funding.

Following the August 2016 Flood, Congress fully funded the project in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA18). In 2018, the USACE proceeded with construction activities. As of August, 2023, the construction of the Comite Diversion Canal is continuing and nearly all of the right-of-way has been acquired. Construction of the U.S. Highway 61 and KCS RR bridges are 99% complete, channel reach 2A is 85% complete, Cypress Bayou Rock Chute is 30% complete, clearing and grubbing is completed, McHugh Road and bridge are 99% complete, Channel Segment 04 is 85% complete, White Bayou Rock Chute is 75% complete, and maintenance work on Lilly Bayou Control Structure is completed.



Map from the USACE depicting the Comite River Diversion Canal Plan.



Screen capture from the USACE's Project Update Drone Flight from July 2023 showing progress near LA 67.





Screen capture from the USACE's Project Update Drone Flight from July 2023 showing progress near the Cypress Bayou Rock Chute.



Screen capture from the USACE's Project Update Drone Flight from July 2023 showing progress near LA 61 and KCS Railroad Bridges.



Screen capture from the USACE's Project Update Drone Flight from July 2023 showing progress near the Lily Bayou Control Structure.

## 2.2. 2015 Floodplain Management Plan

- **Cost:** \$85,000
- **Owner:** ARBC
- **Funding Source:** ARBC
- **Current Phase:** Completed

In 2015, ARBC commissioned a Floodplain Management Plan to ensure that flood damage reductions to be achieved through the Comite River Diversion Canal project will be preserved in perpetuity. This plan encompassed a comprehensive review of local flood risk and damage reduction measures, and a plan of action to enhance these measures. The Floodplain Management Plan is organized into four sections:

- Section 1. Introduction
- Section 2. The Amite River Basin: describes the physical geography of the ARB, population and land-use trends, and a history of floodplain management.
- Section 3. Comite River Diversion Canal Project: provides information on the project, including previous determinations of post-project conditions; (i.e., benefits).
- Section 4. Basin-Wide Floodplain Management Strategies: discusses strategies and goals for addressing issues at the watershed level, principally by the ARBC.

## 2.3. High-Water Mark Field Survey of August 2016 Flood & 2021 Flood

- **Cost:** \$180,000
- **Owner:** ARBC
- **Funding Source:** ARBC
- **Current Phase:** Completed

ARBC contracted out for highwater marks to be performed following the August 2016 Flood and the May Flood of 2021. As part of its flood plain management efforts, ARBC secured engineering services to survey over 250 high-water mark elevations throughout the flooding area. These high-water marks have been and continue to be used to understand the extent of flooding from both events as well as help calibrate hydraulic models within the basin.

## 2.4. Upper Comite River Debris Removal Cost Benefit Analysis

- **Cost:** \$48,000
- **Owner:** ARBC
- **Funding Source:** ARBC
- **Current Phase:** Completed 2022

ARBC contracted out a helicopter assessment of obstructions in and benefit cost analysis (BCA) of clearing and snagging the Upper Comite River from Highway 10 (Zachary Taylor Pkwy) in Degrays, LA to Highway 64 in Zachary, LA. The East Baton Rouge (EBR) Stormwater Master Plan (SMP) Regional Hydraulic Model was used to analyze the potential reduction in water surface elevation (WSE) as a result of removing the obstructions identified in the channel. EBR City-Parish performed a similar study of the Lower Comite River from Highway 64 in Zachary, LA to the confluence with the Amite River. Clearing and snagging of the Upper Comite River should not be performed until the lower is completed due to the risk of negative downstream impacts. The Lower Comite River clearing was completed in October 2023.

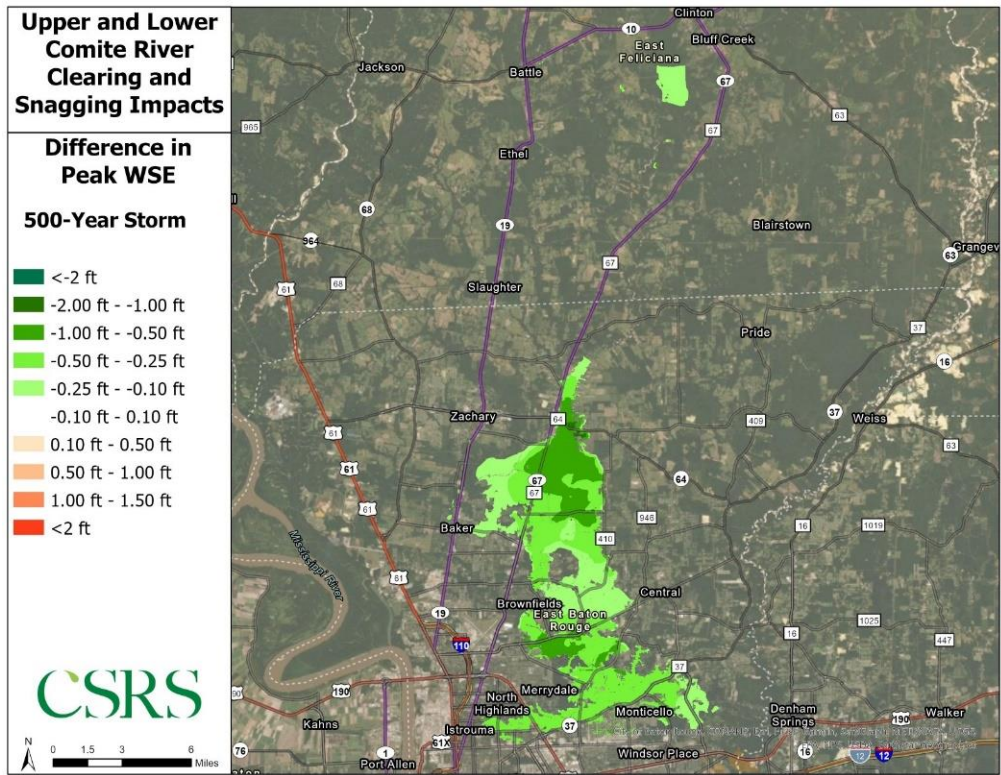


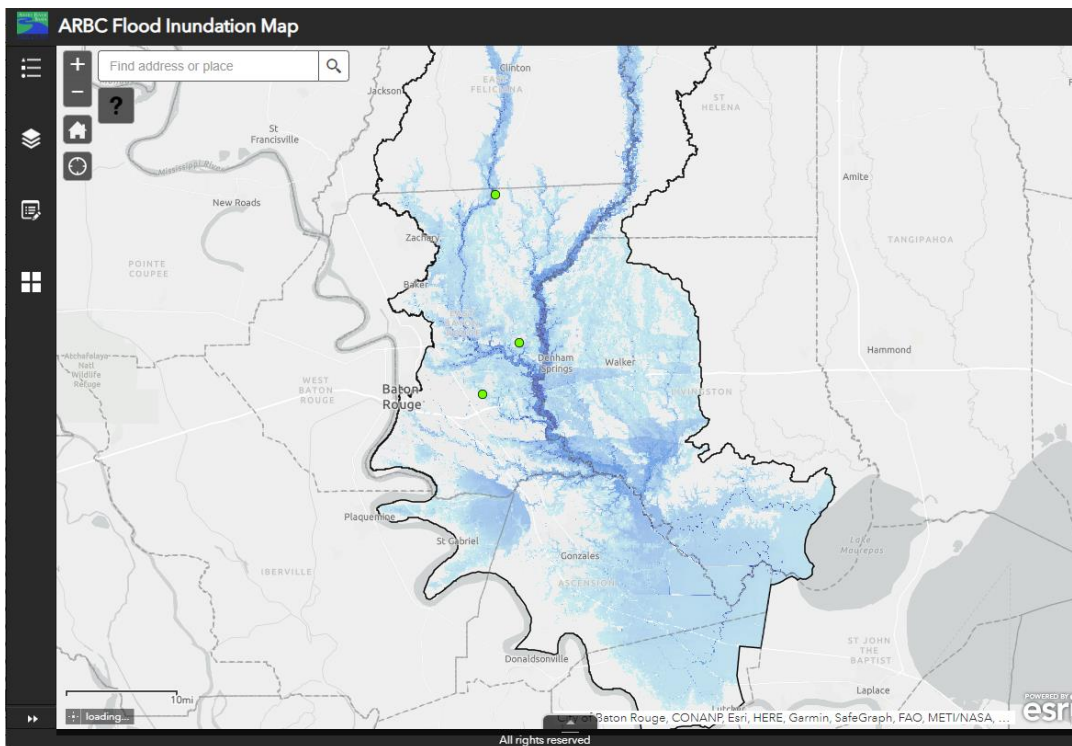
Figure from the study depicting the benefits from the combination of the Upper and Lower Comite River Clearing and Snagging Projects.



## 2.5. High-Definition Flood Inundation Map of the August 2016 Flood

- **Cost:** \$358,860
- **Owner:** ARBC
- **Funding Source:** ARBC
- **Current Phase:** Completed 2022

Following the August 2016 Flood, ARBC contracted the creation of a high-definition flood inundation map (HD-FIM) to accurately document the flood peak water surface elevations and provide consistent flood documentation throughout the region. The HD-FIMv1 is a “state-of-the-art” and “first-in-the-nation” digital map of a major regional flood combining high resolution together with high horizontal and vertical fidelity. The project included an interactive map viewer to view the results.



Screen capture of the ARBC Flood Inundation Map Viewer.



### 3. Active & Planned Construction Projects

At ARBC, our mission is deeply rooted in mitigating flood damage, coordinating comprehensive river management, promoting responsible watershed practices, and conserving the unique natural resources within the Amite River Basin watershed. As we embark on our first annual plan, our focus for the next three years is clear. Our approach integrates short-term and long-range strategies, encompassing structural, nonstructural, and institutional components. A significant emphasis will be placed on flood risk mitigation, utilizing innovative funding sources and actively participating in the Hazard Mitigation Plans of all seven Parishes in the District. Our commitment to conservation extends to the restoration of the watershed's special and valuable natural resources. Additionally, we will persist in outreach and coordination efforts, providing support to political subdivisions, collaborating with state agencies on watershed management, and engaging in public and agency outreach to transparently communicate our activities. As we commence this annual plan, we also look forward to initiating a more forward-looking master planning process later this year. These upcoming projects underscore our dedication to fostering sustainable practices, safeguarding communities, and preserving the ecological integrity of the Amite River Basin watershed.

#### 3.1. Lower Amite River Channel Restoration

- **Cost:** \$50,000,000
- **Owner:** Livingston Parish
- **Sponsor:** ARBC
- **Funding Source(s):** LWI
- **Current Phase:** Awaiting additional funding for implementation

The Lower Amite River Channel Restoration Project's objective is to restore the natural drainage capacity of the Lower Amite River (original channel) to improve drainage, water quality, and habitat by removing the excess sediment accumulations resulting from upstream sources.

Note: The Amite River Diversion Canal Weir Rehabilitation Project is contingent upon the completion of this project in order to mitigate potential flood risk down the natural channel located below the diversion canal weir since the weir project will return the design flow back to the natural channel similar to when the weir was originally constructed.

#### 3.2. Bayou Manchac Flood Risk Reduction

- **Cost:** \$82,000,000
- **Owner:** PLD, ARBC
- **Sponsor:** ARBC
- **Funding Source(s):** Capital outlay, LWI
- **Current Phase:** Design

The Pontchartrain Levee District conducted the Bayou Manchac Regional Flood Risk Reduction Plan. The plan assessed potential flood risk reduction projects in the Bayou Manchac Basin, an approximately 169 square mile basin serving Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Iberville Parishes. Projects analyzed included clearing and snagging of Bayou Manchac from its confluence with the Amite

River to the Alligator Bayou Floodgate, Bayou Manchac dredging of the same reach, Perkins Road bridge replacement, Alligator Bayou dredged, Ward Creek realignment, and Bayou Manchac dredging from Highway 30 to the Alligator Bayou Floodgate. The analysis included benefit cost analyses for the various projects, and modeling of each project's actual flood risk reduction benefits. The report found that proposed projects would result in significant benefit to the Manchac Basin and tri-parish area.

### 3.3. New River Water Management Pump Station

- **Cost:** \$104,201,000
- **Owner:** Ascension Parish
- **Sponsor:** ARBC
- **Funding Source(s):** LWI
- **Current Phase:** Awaiting additional funding for implementation

The proposed project is located on the north side of River Road just east of the Ascension/Iberville Parish line in Geismar and consists of the following five improvements: conveyance channel improvements; water control structure at Highway 74; water control structure at Bluff and Morgan Swamp; a 1,200 cfs Mississippi River pumping station; and new rain gages. The conveyance channel improvements consist of a series of new and/or dredged earthen conveyance channels connecting Bluff Swamp to New River and re-routing New River to a new detention pond and pump station near the Mississippi River on River Road about one mile west of Highway 73. The conveyance channel improvements will excavate and/or dredge over 6.42 miles of channel, with a 40-ft wide bottom width and 3H:1V side slopes and require over 314,000 cubic yards of excavation. The water control structures at Highway 74 and Bluff and Morgan Swamp consist of multi-barrel reinforced box culverts and sluice gates to allow for open, reduced, or zero flow options depending on rainfall and flooding conditions. The Mississippi River pumping station is a new pumping station to be constructed near the Mississippi River with a rated capacity of 1,200 cfs to pump from New River over the levee and into the Mississippi River. The pumping station will allow water surface elevations in the region to be pumped down pre-storm to increase the amount of available hydraulic capacity during storm events. Pumping during storm events will also help reduce peak water surface elevations and improve conveyance capacity. The new rain gauges will be installed at four locations and will be connected to a SCADA system to provide more effective monitoring at the proposed pump station, water control structures, and at Bluff Swamp. The East Ascension Drainage District has invested \$200,000 in the H&H analysis.

### 3.4. Upper Amite River Flood Risk Reduction and Restoration

- **Cost:** \$3,860,000
- **Owner:** PLD, ARBC
- **Sponsor:** ARBC
- **Funding Source(s):** CPRA, Capital Outlay
- **Current Phase:** Conceptual design

The Upper Amite River Flood Risk Reduction and Restoration Project aims to restore and improve the conveyance and storage functions of the floodplain, reduce the sediment transport from the middle and upper portions of the Amite River to the lower portions, and improve water quality.

## 4. Other Planned Projects

The following projects, while not owned by ARBC, will have watershed-level impact within the Amite River Basin. ARBC has recommended the projects for LWI Round 2 funding.

### 4.1. Clearing & Snagging in East Feliciana South of Hwy 10

- **Cost:** \$13,200,365
- **Owner:** East Feliciana Parish Police Jury, ARBC
- **Funding Source(s):** LWI
- **Current Phase:** Awaiting additional funding for implementation

The Comite River Sub-watershed has significant flooding from the Comite River, Pretty Creek and Redwood Creek. Hwy 10, running east to west through Clinton acts as a hydrologic break in the watershed. This project involves the area South of Hwy 10, bounded by Clinton to the east and Hwy 957 to the west, where floods impact agriculture, residences, and transportation. During the 2016 floods, the low-income neighborhood of Rileyville (in Clinton, S. of Hwy 10), experienced approx. 5 ft of flood water, and Hwy 957 to the west held approx. 15 feet of water above standard Comite River level, with water reaching the bridge on Battle Road. Approx. 3/4 of all structures in this area were severely impacted, and many residents were forced to relocate. Many crops were lost, and livestock drowned. This area also floods during more frequent, normal rain events. For example, water in Rileyville can reach depths of 2-3' during a heavy rain and Hwy 955 may flood to a depth of up to 24". The project will start by clearing and snagging the portion of the Comite River between Hwy 10 and Pride Port Hudson Road, starting in the south and working upstream towards the Town of Clinton. Once the main stem of the Comite River south of Hwy 10 is cleared and the flow of water restored, the project team will advance to clearing and snagging the tributaries of Pretty Creek and Redwood Creek, beginning with the most downstream portion of the river, and working upstream toward the terminus. This project will entail a detailed alternative analysis, careful modeling and understanding of the consequences (including downstream flood risk), and mitigation/avoidance of those impacts to the greatest extent practicable. Additionally, an analysis of project sequencing will occur before implementation to avoid any potential downstream impacts as a result of poor sequencing.

### 4.2. Clearing & Snagging in East Feliciana North of Hwy 10

- **Cost:** \$13,736,114
- **Owner:** East Feliciana Parish Police Jury, ARBC
- **Funding Source(s):** LWI
- **Current Phase:** Awaiting additional funding for implementation

The Comite River Sub-watershed experiences recurring flooding from the Comite River, Pretty Creek and Redwood Creek. This project refers to the area North of Hwy 10 and the Town of Clinton, bounded by the Comite River to the west, and Hwy 67 N. (aka Liberty Street) to the east, and extending north to Mississippi. The identified region floods regularly during heavy rainfall events. For example, the middle

school on Hwy 67 N., also used by the Council on Aging, floods to a depth of approx. 1-3 ft. Many portions of the property, including the gym, are now unusable. Importantly, in addition to experiencing flooding regularly, this area acts as a funnel, receiving surface water, water from rivers and creeks overflowing, and stormwater runoff from throughout the sub-watershed, concentrating in into low-capacity waterways and pushing it into the lower half of the Comite sub-watershed, significantly increasing flood risk in the town of Clinton, all the way to the northern portion of East Baton Rouge Parish. The project will start by clearing and snagging the portion of the Comite River close to Hwy 10, working upstream from Clinton toward the Mississippi State line. This project will entail a detailed alternative analysis, careful modeling and understanding of the consequences (including downstream flood risk), and mitigation/avoidance of those impacts to the greatest extent practicable. Additionally, an analysis of project sequencing will occur before implementation to avoid any potential downstream impacts as a result of poor sequencing.

### 4.3. Kennedy Heights Drainage Improvements Project

- **Cost:** \$2,280,795
- **Owner:** City of Gonzales
- **Funding Source(s):** LWI
- **Current Phase:** Awaiting additional funding for implementation

The Kennedy Heights Drainage Improvements project will implement improvements to the Kennedy Heights stormwater system by upgrading undersized and deficient culverts, regrading/reshaping roadside ditches to allow gravity drainage, and re-establishing 3:1 slopes. It appears to be a straightforward drainage improvement project that seems to benefit a neighborhood with high LMI. An H&H report was provided which identified optional detention. Based upon the provided drainage map, although the downstream impact is not clear, some level of detention needs to be included to offset the increased peak flow from enlarging the culverts. This project was mistakenly classified as ineligible and was not prioritized by the RSC.

The H&H report identified optional detention which would alleviate downstream flooding concerns; scope needs to be adjusted to include detention, with an increase in detention pond size in the open area if needed to avoid downstream impacts. Additional funds have been allocated to support the additional work.

### 4.4. John Leblanc Detention Improvements

- **Cost:** \$536,232
- **Owner:** Ascension Parish
- **Funding Source(s):** LWI
- **Current Phase:** Awaiting additional funding for implementation

The Bayou Conway Basin was analyzed, and a significant risk of flooding was found around John Leblanc Blvd near Bayou Conway. The construction of a small detention basin on the vacant tract should result in flood risk reduction for this high-risk area while also providing a modest amount of



environmental benefit. There are approximately 20 structures that experience flooding during the 1-year rainfall event, 70 during the 50-year event, and 75 structures in the area that experience flooding during a 100-year event. The estimated annualized physical flood damages within the benefit area total over 86,000 or

approximately \$1.2 million (using a 7% discount rate) over a 50-year project useful life.

The project is located on the north side of John Leblanc Blvd, two thirds of a mile southwest of Airline Highway in Sorrento and is shown in the attached project maps. There is a vacant tract north of John Leblanc Blvd just upstream of Lee Street which is suitable for the construction of a detention basin. The proposed project is a 1.2-acre detention pond located in the vacant, undeveloped land north of John Leblanc Boulevard near Encore Boat Works. The project will add 7,800 CY of increased hydraulic storage in the area which will reduce water surface elevation for future events while also providing modest environmental benefits to the local area. The land is currently owned by the parish, eliminating land acquisition costs.

#### 4.5. Taylor Bayou Regional Improvements

- **Cost:** \$8,856,262
- **Owner:** City of Walker
- **Funding Source(s):** LWI
- **Current Phase:** Awaiting additional funding for implementation

Riverine and Stormwater Flooding is a regular risk for many residents of the City of Walker, specifically those situated along Taylor Bayou, a waterway collecting roughly 3,296 acres of watershed runoff that flows through the City of Walker. Even during a 10-year storm event, many roads and houses experience flooding within this area. It has been a goal of the administration to work to produce a project that provides benefits for the residents affected by this regular flooding. Preliminary modeling of the proposed project shows that during the 'existing condition' 10-year storm event, about 130 houses flood within the project study area. Compare this to the flood reduction seen in the proposed conditions which show only 70 homes (of the same 130) flooding. The proposed improvements from this project would be expected to remove 60 homes from flooding and reduce the water level, and cost of repair, for the remaining 70 homes that are preliminarily modeled to flood in the existing conditions.

The proposed project can be grouped into three parts: a culvert upgrade, from an existing 84" culvert to a proposed 6'x8' double barrel box culvert, (to remove a flow choke point), stormwater parks (2 stormwater parks to store peak water to reduce peak flow and peak water surface with approximately 20-30 acres of excavation), and approximately 6,000 linear feet of riverine widening (a portion of which includes green floodway improvements aimed at reducing peak water surface and slowing water through vegetative installations). In addition to structure flooding benefits expected from the completion of the proposed project, there are project benefits associated with roadway flooding and green infrastructure vs. grey infrastructure in regard to channel improvements and the storing of floodwaters in a more natural environment (compared to standard detention ponds). These stormwater parks will have a goal to provide wetland habitat creation. It is also important to note that preliminary modeling has shown that there are repetitive loss homes within the existing 10-year storm flood boundary that

are mitigated in the proposed 10-year storm and that there are no negative impacts on the surrounding areas based on the proposed design.

- \$122,360 preliminary drainage study completed – funded by City of Walker

#### **4.6. Lower Bayou Conway Drainage Improvements**

- **Cost:** \$1,705,593
- **Owner:** Ascension Parish
- **Funding Source(s):** LWI
- **Current Phase:** Awaiting additional funding for implementation

The Bayou Conway watershed was analyzed, and a significant risk of flooding was found near John Leblanc Blvd and Bayou Conway. The neighborhoods along Main St, Conway St and Guedry St are areas that have seen rapid growth in the past few years. One of the specific concerns identified is that a 5-year 24-hour storm event can flood Walker W Conway St, which serves as the only entrance and exit to the neighborhood. The analysis also highlighted a critical problem with the culverts in the Conway Street neighborhood. The culverts demonstrate significant head loss, indicating that they are undersized for effectively managing water flow. This under sizing exacerbates the flooding risk and hampers the culverts' ability to mitigate the impact of heavy rainfall. Given the circumstances, immediate attention is required to address these undersized culverts and implement appropriate measures to alleviate the flooding risk faced by the residents in this growing community.

The project is located just east of the I-10/LA-22 interchange in Sorrento. There is a vacant tract north of Bayou Conway, near Main Street and Conway Street which is suitable for the construction of a detention basin. The proposed project is a 6.75-acre detention pond to be located in the vacant, undeveloped land between Main Street and Conway Street in Sorrento. The pond will also include an outfall structure that will control outflow from the detention basin back into Bayou Conway as tailwaters recede back into local conveyances to eventually be pumped out by the Sorrento pumping station. Because the pond is on the interior side of the levee and pumping station, it will add hydraulic storage for water to pool and allow the pump station more time to handle runoff. The local conveyance channels will have improved culverts installed along Walker St., Emma St., Marion L., and two on Wilfred St. The exact sizes and materials of the new culvert structures will be determined after an H&H study has been performed. A diameter of 24" has been assumed. Many of the existing corrugated metal pipe culverts have rusted and collapsed.

## **5. Active & Planned Policy Initiatives**

### **5.1. Capacity building**

There is widespread agreement that more must be done to manage drainage, flood control, and water resources throughout the Amite River Basin. The key impediments have been dispersed responsibility for watershed management; lack of a central manager to plan, coordinate, and control watershed management efforts; lack of watershed-level management; lack of funding for watershed management; and lack of an entity to exercise control of waterways of state and regional concern, as opposed to those of federal or strictly local concern.

A key effort that ARBC will pursue in the upcoming year, as the Commission embraces its role as watershed manager, will be a greatly expanded local presence. This will involve direct capacity building for the lower-capacity jurisdictions in the region that struggle to obtain competitive funding, as well as annual presentations to legislative bodies on regional and local needs, and ongoing establishment of relationships at the local jurisdiction level.

Additionally, ARBC is anticipating receiving grant funding through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative to undertake the following capacity building activities as part of ARBC's role as Region 9 watershed coordinator:

- Develop and facilitate a longer-term regional coalition
- Provide local technical assistance in floodplain management and assess the region's existing conditions
- Coordinate outreach opportunities for the Louisiana Watershed Initiative and
- Identify long-term sustainable governance scenarios

### **5.2. Promulgation of higher building, stormwater detention standards**

As mandated by legislation, ARBC will play a pivotal role in promoting higher building and stormwater retention/detention standards across local jurisdictions within the Amite River Basin. Watershed management is essential for ensuring sustainable development, mitigating flood risks, and preserving water quality. Specific strategies and model standards will be developed as part of the upcoming Master Plan development process. The master planning process will include assessment of current stormwater management practices and vulnerable areas within ARBC's jurisdiction, and collaboration with hydrologists, environmental engineers, and other experts to develop model standards that are adaptable to the unique characteristics of different localities within the watershed.

### **5.3. Flood insurance reduction advocacy**

As part of its mission, ARBC will continue to advocate for the population of the watershed. One upcoming advocacy effort will be focused on the impact of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project on the mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements of the watershed. As discussed, management of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project has been transferred to East Baton Rouge Parish and is advancing towards substantial completion. ARBC will engage with FEMA and the

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the state National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinating Agency, to explore all flood mapping options and develop a timeline for FEMA to update the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) of the impacted parishes to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from this project. The updated regulatory data will help our communities better manage their flood risk and remove the mandatory purchase requirement of properties that have been mitigated because of the project.

#### **5.4. Development of Master Plan**

Enabling a long-term structure for watershed coordination and governance is a primary goal of ARBC's upcoming fiscal year. Development of a Watershed Master Plan for the ARBC will play a key role in the sustainability & planning of LWI Region 9 watershed. The Master Plan would comprehensively address drainage, flood control, and water resource management within LWI Region 9 through construction and management of projects and programs, including regarding planning, permitting, and development, and waterway management. The plan would address watershed management from both short-term and long-range perspectives, incorporate structural, management and institutional components of both efforts, include a list of projects and programs required for this, including a schedule and estimated costs, and explain why each project or program was selected and how it advances plan objectives.

#### **5.5. Coordination with local/state/federal government**

ARBC will further coordination with state and federal agencies and political subdivisions regarding watershed management; identifying, seeking, receiving, and expending federal and other funding for planning and projects beneficial to the watershed.

#### **5.6. Public awareness, outreach & education**

Public outreach and communication are critical to ARBC's role as comprehensive manager of the District. ARBC provides leadership in public outreach and education strategies to promote the watershed approach to floodplain management and rational, cost-effective floodplain public policies. Examples of ARBC's current efforts include:

- Publishing the ARBC website;
- Development of a Web-enabled ARB GIS; and
- Sponsoring of April as "Flood Awareness Month."

In addition, ARBC holds monthly meetings which are open to the public and includes an invitation for public comments and questions at each meeting. The meeting activities are regularly reported in the "Baton Rouge Advocate."

New outreach initiatives that will be pursued in the upcoming year include ARBC attendance of Parish council meetings, to boost local presence and maintain a real-time understanding of local activities and needs, as well as a Nature Based Solutions education initiative, which will entail local-level training regarding Nature Based Solutions. ARBC also intends to organize an annual meeting with each Parish within its jurisdiction to discuss needs, issues, and goals regarding floodplain management.



## 6. Funding sources

As follows is a list of funding sources anticipated to be available to ARBC in the next year.

### 6.1. Secured/anticipated funding sources

- **Louisiana Watershed Initiative (Louisiana Department of Community Development)**
  - \$42 million – Round 2 funding  
*Approximately \$42 million is currently being allocated for projects within the Amite River Basin.*
  - \$100 million – Region 9 set-aside  
*An additional \$100 million in funding for Region 9 has been announced and is expected to be disbursed in 2024.*
  - \$800k capacity building  
*ARBC has been awarded \$800k through LWI Regional Capacity Building Grant program to expand capacity building efforts discussed in 4.1.*
  
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (FEMA/Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness)**  
Through a Presidential Disaster Declaration (DR-4683), FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) aims to provide support for communities to implement mitigation activities to reduce risk to life and property from natural hazards including natural hazards include wildfire, earthquake, drought, extreme weather, flooding, and other natural hazards.
  
- **Capital Outlay (State of Louisiana)**  
Approximately \$2.5 million in State Capital Outlay funding has been allocated for the Upper Amite River Flood Risk Reduction & Restoration Project.
  
- **Restricted Funds**  
ARBC receives an annual transfer of \$386,150 from previously collected Comite River Diversion Canal Project tax millage to cover administrative costs. ARBC also has the ability to collect additional millages in the future should that become necessary.
  
- **Annual Congressional Appropriations**  
ARBC intends to lobby for project-specific Congressional earmark funding in upcoming legislative sessions.

### 6.2. Competitive Funding Sources

The following are competitive funding sources that ARBC may pursue in the next fiscal year and/or upcoming years. Additionally, ARBC may assist local jurisdictions in applying for these funds.

- **Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities (FEMA)**  
BRIC is an annual competitive grant program to support communities as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards.

The \$2.3 billion program is focused on large, cost-effective infrastructure projects that reduce or eliminate risk from natural hazards.

- \$50M federal share for capital projects,
- 25% local match required.

- **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FEMA)**

The FMA grant program makes federal funds available to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). \$800 million is available nationwide for the 2023 cycle.

- \$50 million federal share for capital projects,
- \$900,000 for project scoping,
- \$300,000 for additional capacity and capability building activities,
- 25% local match required (waived for severe repetitive loss property mitigation).

- **Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program (FHWA)**

The PROTECT program, established through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, awards funding for projects that help make surface transportation more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure. The program includes four different grant categories with varying cost share and grant caps and will provide \$1.4 billion in funding over 5 years.

- **Watershed Protect and Flood Prevention (WFPO) Program (US Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service)**

The WFPO Program helps units of federal, state, local and federally recognized tribal governments (project sponsors) protect and restore watersheds. Project sponsors initiate a request for assistance through their local NRCS office to develop a preliminary feasibility study (PIFR) which helps communities consider sustainable climate resilient solutions to address watershed resource concerns. After a feasibility study is conducted, a watershed plan is chosen, reviewed, approved and authorized. Once authorized, projects sponsors gain access to NRCS's financial and technical resources to help implement their plan.

- **Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Program (Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality)**

The Louisiana Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Program is managed by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and is a collaborative effort that includes many partners. NPS is a type of water pollution that is not generated from a discrete conveyance, such as a discharge pipe, but is generated during rainfall events. NPS pollution is the largest remaining type of water pollution that needs to be addressed within Louisiana and across the nation to restore the designated uses to the impaired waterbodies.

Section 319 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) required that the states develop a NPS Management Plan to reduce and control nonpoint sources of pollution from the various types of land uses that contribute to water quality problems across the United States. Some of these categories can also be defined as point source discharges and may require a storm water permit. Louisiana determined that agriculture, forestry, urban runoff, home sewage systems, sand and gravel mining, construction, and hydromodification all contribute to NPS pollution problems across the state.

The State of Louisiana has applied for and is receiving Section 319 funding to implement both statewide and watershed projects to address NPS pollution. Our goal is to educate the public about NPS pollution and best management practices (BMPs) that can be implemented to reduce and control this type of pollution.

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (Louisiana Office of State Parks)**  
The LWCF program promotes broad-scope outdoor recreation, ranging from land acquisition to development of park facilities such as spray parks, ball fields, picnic pavilions and restrooms. The federally- funded program provides 50% matching funds assistance, through grants to state governments and local municipalities.
- **Statewide Flood Control Program (Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development)**  
This Program uses state funds allocated each year by the Legislature to assist in the construction of flood control infrastructure. Eligible projects for consideration must reduce existing flood damages. Potential projects include measures to reduce or eliminate the incidence of flooding or damages in specific area; for example, channel modifications; levee, canal, and spillway construction; stormwater detention; flood proofing of structure; regulation of floodplains; relocation assistance; or other structural or non-structural measures. Funds may provide up to 90% of the cost of construction for projects that reduce existing flood damages, do not encourage additional development in flood-prone areas, do not increase upstream or downstream flooding and have a total construction cost of \$100,000 or more.
- **Roadway Flood Control Program (Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development)**  
Similar to the Statewide Flood Control Program, this is an annual program that uses state funds for roadway flood reduction projects. Funding requests are initiated at the local or DOTD District level.
- **Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)**  
CPRA regularly provides funding for ARBC activities and projects, using a variety of federal and non-federal funding sources.

## 7. Projected FY2024, 2025, and 2026 Expenditures

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Current Phase</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Owner(s)</i>	<i>Sponsor(s)</i>	<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	<i>Total Est. Project Cost</i>	<i>Estimated ARBC FY2024 Expenditure*</i>	<i>Estimated ARBC FY2025 Expenditure*</i>	<i>Estimated ARBC FY2026 Expenditure*</i>
<b>Comite River Diversion Project</b>	East Baton Rouge, LA	Construction	Ongoing	USACE	EBR, ARBC, DOTD	BBA18	\$970,000,000	None	None	None
<b>Watershed Master Plan</b>	Basin-wide	Pre-solicitation	Planned	ARBC	CPRA	CPRA	\$3,900,000	\$1,750,000	None	None
<b>Lower Amite River Channel Restoration</b>	Maurepas	Awaiting additional funding for implementation	Planned	Livingston Parish	ARBC	LWI	\$50,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$9,000,000
<b>Bayou Manchac Flood Risk Reduction</b>	Bayou Manchac	Design	Planned	PLD, ARBC	ARBC	LWI, Capital Outlay	\$82,000,000	None	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000
<b>New River Pump Station</b>	Geismar, LA	Awaiting additional funding for implementation	Planned	Ascension Parish	ARBC	LWI	\$104,201,000	\$10,000,000	\$20,000,000	None
<b>Upper Amite River Flood Risk Reduction &amp; Restoration</b>	Upper Amite River	Conceptual Design	Planned	PLD, ARBC	ARBC	Various	\$3,860,000	\$3,000,000	\$860,000	None

\*Amounts are based on anticipated funds and are subject to change.



## 8. Administrative FY2024, 2025, and 2026 Expenditures

	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
<b>TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>			
Regular Salaries and Wages	\$213,500.00	\$213,500.00	\$213,500.00
Other Salaries and Wages	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Employee Benefits	\$88,000.00	\$88,000.00	\$88,000.00
<b>TOTAL TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Transportation, Mileage	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Lodging	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Meals	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
Convention, Seminar Registration	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
<b>TOTAL OPERATING SERVICES</b>			
<b>ADVERTISING, DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>			
Publication of Legal Notices	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Publication of Reports/Minutes	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Subscriptions to Newspapers and Periodicals	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Membership Dues	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
<b>PRINTING, DUPLICATING, TYPING AND BINDING</b>			
	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
Postage	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Telephone	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>RENTALS</b>			
Buildings	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>			
Furniture, Office Machines and Equipment	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>			
Office Equipment, Furniture and Fixtures	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Other	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00
<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>			
Legal	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Accounting	\$22,200.00	\$22,200.00	\$22,200.00
Miscellaneous	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Consultants	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES</b>			
Office Supplies	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>			
	\$443,750.00	\$443,750.00	\$443,750.00