

3 **APPENDIX H: ENGAGEMENT**  
4 **REPORT**

7 **LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION**  
8 **PROGRAM**

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9 The purpose of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program is to restore the ecological health of the  
10 basin by developing and funding restoration projects and related scientific and public education projects to  
11 reduce the risk of pollution.

12 **CITATION**

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13 Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program. (2025). Appendix H: Engagement Report. (pp. 1-9).

14 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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**Abbreviation**

CCMP

PDT

PRP

**Definition**

Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan

Plan Development Team

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program



# INTRODUCTION

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40 Public participation has been a cornerstone of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program's (PRP)  
41 Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) revision process. The PRP designed its outreach to  
42 be clear and collaborative, ensuring diverse perspectives could inform the development of the plan.

43 Engagement has centered on both public and targeted outreach with interested parties and local experts to  
44 provide input on the CCMP. This included participating in the PRP's Management Conference meetings and  
45 convening the Executive Committee, which provided overall guidance and oversight. The plan development  
46 team (PDT) also established and met regularly with Work Groups that brought together local experts to  
47 identify and refine the issues and shape actions. Public participation was advanced through two series of  
48 Community Roundtable meetings across the Pontchartrain Basin, creating opportunities for local knowledge  
49 to guide the CCMP.

50 These activities have helped the CCMP reflect both scientific priorities and community perspectives. They  
51 also demonstrate the PRP's commitment to fostering trust, building consensus, and connecting the plan to  
52 the needs and values of the people who live and work in or around the Pontchartrain Basin.

## 53 Management Conference

54 The PRP's Management Conference, a cohort of interested parties that serves as the governing body of the  
55 PRP, meets up to twice a year to discuss the Pontchartrain Basin, its needs, future funding opportunities, and  
56 ongoing efforts to implement the CCMP. Throughout the CCMP development process, the PDT engaged with  
57 Management Conference members to build public awareness, strengthen support, and gather feedback from  
58 some of the region's most committed stakeholders. Members of the Management Conference also provided  
59 more detailed and meaningful input through their representation on the CCMP's Work Groups. The PDT  
60 participated in Management Conference meetings on May 16, 2024, and June 3, 2025.

## 61 Executive Committee

62 The Executive Committee provided strategic oversight and decision-making for the development of the  
63 CCMP. Committee members met at key milestones to review progress and guide plan development. The  
64 group serves as the leadership body of the Management Conference, ensuring the CCMP was aligned with  
65 the purpose of the program.

66 In January 2025, early in the planning effort, the Executive Committee reviewed the draft plan revision  
67 framework and the proposed CCMP goals and objectives along with an initial list of identified issues. Their  
68 feedback helped refine both the framework and the comprehensive Issue Report.

69 In April 2025, the PDT held a meeting for the Executive Committee to provide feedback on the structure and  
70 approach for developing the Action Plan. The planning team presented the overall framework for how actions  
71 would be drafted, organized, and categorized, as well as a selection of key example actions to illustrate the

72 process. The Executive Committee offered direction on the presentation and categorization of actions,  
73 ensuring that the structure would be clear, consistent, and accessible to stakeholders. This input guided the  
74 PDT as it continued drafting the Action Plan and refining the methods for presenting proposed actions.

75 In July 2025, the Executive Committee was presented with the full Action Plan, including the complete list of  
76 proposed actions as well as the timeline and process for CCMP review and approval. This meeting provided  
77 an opportunity for members to assess the organization of actions and discuss alignment with program goals  
78 and objectives.

79 In November 2025, the PDT presented the draft CCMP for review and feedback. This meeting provided an  
80 opportunity for Executive Committee members to evaluate the plan's goals, objectives, and proposed actions,  
81 ensuring they align with the program's mission and basin priorities. Input from the Executive Committee  
82 helped refine the draft CCMP ahead of its finalization and support a shared vision for implementation across  
83 the Pontchartrain Basin.

## 84 **Work Groups**

85 Four Work Groups were convened to support the development of the CCMP:

- 86 • Water Quality
- 87 • Habitat
- 88 • Working Lands and Waters/Land Use
- 89 • Resilient Communities

90 Each group brought together subject matter experts in each of these categories to represent the basin's  
91 interest in meetings with dense subject matter to develop the CCMP. Meetings were held in a combination of  
92 in-person and virtual formats to maximize accessibility and participation.

93 The Work Groups met in multiple rounds throughout the planning process, each with a specific focus:

### 94 **ROUND 1-ISSUE IDENTIFICATION: NOVEMBER 2024**

95 The first session convened all Work Groups together for an opening presentation before breaking into  
96 individual groups. Members discussed priority issues, provided input on emerging challenges, and reviewed  
97 the issues that had already been identified from previous planning efforts in the basin. Feedback from this  
98 round informed the draft Issue Report.

### 99 **ROUND 2-REFINEMENT OF ISSUES: FEBRUARY 2025**

100 Each Work Group met individually to review chapters of the draft issue report relevant to their expertise and  
101 provide initial potential actions. Members provided additional feedback, identified gaps, and recommended  
102 improvements to ensure that the issues accurately reflected current conditions within the basin.

## 103 ROUND 3-ACTION DEVELOPMENT: MAY 2025

104 The third round focused on developing and refining actions. Meeting separately, each Work Group reviewed  
105 draft actions and provided input on potential partners, timelines for implementation, and areas for  
106 improvement. Members also suggested new actions for consideration. The PDT revised the draft Action Plan  
107 to incorporate this feedback.

## 108 ROUND 4-ACTION AND STRATEGY REVIEW: JULY 2025

109 In this round, all groups reconvened for a joint presentation and then split into individual discussions to  
110 review and refine the draft Action Plan and draft Supporting Strategies and Monitoring Report. This meeting  
111 ensured alignment across focus areas and strengthened the overall framework of the CCMP.

112 Through this process, the Work Groups played a critical role in shaping the CCMP. Their expertise and  
113 perspectives ensured that the plan's actions are both technically sound and responsive to the diverse needs  
114 of the Pontchartrain Basin.

## 115 ROUND 5-DRAFT CCMP REVIEW: NOVEMBER 2025

116 The final Work Group meeting provided an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft CCMP. By  
117 reviewing the draft CCMP, members helped refine proposed actions, confirm that identified strategies align  
118 with local and regional needs, and ensure that the plan is both practical and effective for implementation.  
119 Input from this group was used by the PDT to strengthen the final version of the CCMP.

## 120 Public Engagement

121 As part of the CCMP development process, the PDT hosted a series of Community Roundtable meetings to  
122 share progress with the public and gather feedback from residents across the basin. These meetings were  
123 designed to be interactive and informative, creating space for open dialogue with individuals directly and  
124 indirectly affected by actions recommended in the CCMP.

125 Each roundtable included a presentation from the PDT to provide background and context, followed by small-  
126 group discussions facilitated around targeted questions. This format allowed participants to share local  
127 knowledge, voice concerns, and highlight priorities specific to their communities. Supporting materials such  
128 as maps, fact sheets, and one-pagers were provided to help guide discussion and ensure participants had  
129 access to clear and relevant information.

130 Meeting notes and key outcomes were documented after each session, ensuring feedback was carried  
131 forward into the planning process. The insights gathered during these roundtables provided valuable context  
132 to planning data and directly informed the refinement of issues, actions, and strategies within the draft  
133 CCMP.

134 For the second round of Community Roundtables, the PDT expanded outreach efforts to ensure broad public  
135 participation. Team members presented at local levee board meetings, partnered with local libraries to

136 distribute flyers, shared information through social media and word of mouth, and coordinated with the U.S.  
137 Environmental Protection Agency and The Beach at UNO to promote the meetings on its social media  
138 platforms. These combined efforts helped raise awareness across the basin and ensured that all interested  
139 community members had the opportunity to attend and provide input.

140 Roundtables were held at two key phases of plan development: the first set focused on issue identification  
141 and confirmation, while the second set centered on reviewing draft actions. Together, these meetings  
142 strengthened the CCMP by incorporating community perspectives and building trust and engagement across  
143 the Pontchartrain Basin. The schedule of the events for Rounds 1 and 2, which were conducted in 2025, is  
144 included below.

## ROUND 1

<b>Time</b>	<b>Date and Event</b>
12:00pm-01:00pm	3/10 Webinar
05:30pm-07:00pm	3/10 McComb Library
05:30pm-07:00pm	3/13 St. Tammany Parish Library-Covington Branch
05:30pm-07:00pm	3/20 Livingston Parish Library-Main Branch
05:30pm-07:00pm	3/27 Docville Farm

## ROUND 2

<b>Time</b>	<b>Date and Event</b>
12:00pm-01:00pm	10/21 Webinar
05:30pm-07:00pm	10/21 St. John the Baptist Parish Library-Reserve Branch
05:30pm-07:00pm	10/22 Tangipahoa Parish Library
05:30pm-07:00pm	10/27 St. Tammany Parish Library-Slidell Branch
05:30pm-07:00pm	10/29 Docville Farm

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