PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

LAFAYETTE FEASIBILITY STUDY

FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION

PRESENTED BY:

MARK WINGATE, P.E., CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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THE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING REGARDING THE LAFAYETTE FEASIBILITY STUDY, FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION, WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2002, AT THE CLIFTON CHENIER CENTER, 220 W. WILLOW STREET, LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, COMMENCING AT 6:15 P.M.

MR. BROWN:

My name is Creig Brown. I am a consultant with the Army Corps of Engineers. Tonight we're here to discuss the project, flood control project for the Vermillion River. However, before we get started, there are a few housekeeping rules. First of all, we have a Court Reporter here from Lafayette on your right, therefore it is important that we maintain the integrity of your comments. What we want to do is get some good input and feedback from you; therefore it's going to be important that you come up to the microphone that we have here, please state your name, your address, and state where you live, and then ask your question. It's important that you identify yourself, speak loudly and clearly, unlike I did earlier. Okay.

And at that time I'm going to turn the microphone over to Bill Campbell who is with the Parish President's Office, and he'll give you a bit more.

MR. CAMPBELL:

Good evening. I'm Bill Campbell, Assistant Director of Public Works for Lafayette Consolidated Government representing Mr. Comeaux who couldn't be here tonight. And the reason

we're here is to talk to everyone from Lafayette. In 1993, January 23rd, '93, to be exact, Lafayette received over ten inches of rain in less than right at a twenty- four period and we had some severe flooding along the river. Immediately after that the Parish at the time requested that the Army Corps of Engineers give us a study to tell us what happened, what can we do to prevent this from happening again. We had to get some funding from Washington to give them enough money to do a reconnaissance study. The reconnaissance study, Mark Wingate will explain what all transpired. The study was started in '94, I think it was, Mark -- '95, and when the reconnaissance study was complete and went into a feasibility study. The feasibility study is where they identify a project that could be feasible using Federal funds and without further ado I'm going to introduce Mark Wingate, Project Engineer for the Corps of Engineers, who can give an overview of what got us to this point where we are now.

MR. WINGATE:

Thank you, Bill. My name is Mark Wingate. I'm with the Corps of Engineers out of New Orleans. Before I get to the presentation,

what you're about to see, everyone should have a hard copy, so if you don't have a hard copy we do have plenty in the back, so feel free to pick those up. Also I would hope you would pick up a self- addressed stamped envelope which we'll talk a little bit about later in the presentation. Those two things, the hard copy as well as that self- addressed stamped envelope. With that we'll go ahead and get into the presentation.

In connection with that, we're here to present to you tonight where we are in what we call the Lafayette Flood Control Feasibility Study. The purpose of the meeting tonight is to brief you all on where we are with the Flood Control Study, what the purpose of the study is, but most importantly is to receive feedback from each of you all, to assess you all's level of support to determine where we go to next on this particular project. The project we're really going to focus in on tonight is a project that calls for dredging on the Vermillion River, and more specifically the plan we call 1- C. 1- C is the plan we're going to be proposing or recommending to determine the level of support on.

Before I get to that plan, I want to talk

about two things. One draws the big picture about the Corps doing the project and what do we do to finally get to construction, which is what we call our Civil Works Process. A little history of flooding in Lafayette Parish, some of these flood damage production plants some of you are familiar with, but we'll cover it real briefly again all the different ideas that we've looked at throughout this study, a presentation on that recommended plan which is "1C," where to next, and then we'll wrap it up with a little summary, and then the heart of the meeting is to turn it over to you to solicit your feedback.

Okay. This is just what we call the Corps' Civil Works Process. As Bill mentioned, the Parish has requested the Corps to get involved in flood control, so what does exactly does the Corps do? Well, there's four steps.

Step 1 is what we call the Reconnaissance Study. That study was initiated in June of '95 and completed approximately twelve months later. It's a study that the Corps went in there with not a lot of information. It came up with some ideas and basically said yes, it appears something is feasible in Lafayette Parish to reduce flood

damage.

So that gave us the opportunity to go to Step 2 where you do a lot of detailed investigations. You had to do surveys. You do soil borings. You do environmental assessments. You do coastal resource investigation, and you do this on a multitude of projects. This particular phase was initiated in March of 1996. The cost share on this project was actually not four point three million, fifty percent funded by LA DOTD, so they are the local sponsor. They've been the ones that have been paying for fifty percent of the project, but just as important as Mr. Campbell had mentioned, when we first got started with the project, there was seed money from Lafayette Parish put up Fifty Thousand ($50,000.00) Dollars for the next state fiscal year. We're nearing completion of Step 2. We're here to determine your valid support for this plan that I've already called "1C." Your level of support is there. We're going to try to wrap this study up, and we're going to Step 3 maybe within the next six to nine months we'll actually be beginning, Step 3.

What is Step 3? That's when we actually develop the blueprints. We actually do the plans

and specifications for the project. That would probably take about twelve months to complete. So at this point if all goes well we're looking at completing Step 3 in eighteen months from now, and then we'd be looking to actually start doing construction work. Construction will probably begin somewhere around two years from today, ballpark. We've got some better dates as we go along.

Okay. A little flood history. Between 1907 and 1998 there have been nineteen major floods in Lafayette. The flood that Bill referenced, the January, 1993 event, there were nearly four hundred and ninety- five claims filed with FEMA totaling Five Point Three Million ($5,300,000.00) Dollars. Of course that's not all the damages that occurred. That's just the folks that had flood insurance and we got that data from FEMA and they had a reported five point three million. There's other things that aren't in that number like emergency operations, street flooding, folks that are uninsured, and so forth.

Between 1978 and 2000 there's been a total of Fourteen Million ($14,000,000.00) Dollars in flood claims in Lafayette Parish. Based upon

our numbers, we believe that over five hundred structures are at risk in Lafayette Parish from flooding as a result of the hundred year storm event. Based on the hundred year storm event today we believe approximately five hundred homes are at risk for receiving flood damages.

Okay. But what are some of the plans that we've looked at since March of 1996? It seems like a lot. Have we been looking at one plan or have we been looking at quite a few plans? So let's go over those.

Well, the first plan, and I know a lot of the folks in the back are familiar with, I see the smiles, is what we call Bayou Tortue Swamp Retention. This was really our land. We came out of that Recon Study, out of Step 1 we felt this was going to be the plan to provide benefits to Lafayette as well as the St. Martin Parish area. We felt that the Bayou Tortue Swamp area was a natural retention area. We felt with frequent intervention we could make it even that much better.

Well, once we got into that we had several resolutions that requested the Corps of Engineers to look elsewhere. We had the community

ask us to look elsewhere and thus we did. So at this point, Bayou Tortue is no longer under consideration. So we started trying to figure out what are we doing to do. Well, we had a project proposed to us about, why don't you just, you know, one of the problems is reverse flow. The flows coming from the south to the north, that's causing problems. Why don't you place a large structure where that reverse flow occurs, put a big pump station and force the water down south. Well, in theory that probably could work. Probably works in reality. One of the problems, though, is the cost of this system was getting to be enormous. Just to continue to pass the flow rate, the pump station alone I think would have been on the order of Forty Million ($40,000,000.00) Dollars and that's without flood gates. So you're talking about too expensive of a project. Even though it may have provided the lowering, the cost was too high. So that plan was no longer considered.

We looked at another idea about diverting water from the Vermilion down Coulee Des Poches with a pump station. That provided some flood state -- flood lowerings, but not significant, so

we scrapped that plan.

There was also another plan at Bayou Tortue, I see Mr. Schoeffler in the audience, that we look at diverting water through Bayou Tortue south of the Keystone Lock and Dam and Bayou Teche. But we scrapped that for good reasons. Okay.

Let's go on to Number 4. We've become very well aware of retention and the possibilities of using those big areas to store water not with the flood pumps. So we did what we call a parish-wide retention and detention facilities study in Lafayette Parish. Well, unfortunately, where we need to locate retention ponds the area's already built up in Lafayette Parish. The place that you could put the pond are up in the northern end of the coulees and there's really not a lot of water there. So we completed that study, but nothing came out of that.

So at this point we're becoming a little bit frustrated, if you will. Are we going to find something to reduce flood damages? Well, we're continuing to look at something we call Isaac Verot Channel Improvements. We're continuing to look at that but we're to going to be talking

about that one tonight because we're still in the early planning phases. Town of Carencro, they've also requested us to look at their flood problems. Under this particular study, we looked at Town of Carencro and decided that there was something feasible. What we've actually looked at is what we call one of our Section 205, small authority, and that spot is being pursued under a Section 205, separate flood control program.

So so far at this point we're doing work on Verot as well as Town of Carencro, but what do we do as a comprehensive solution to provide benefits to those people that drain into the Vermilion River. Well, we said, well, let's go back to the Vermilion River dredging plan, and that's what we're here to discuss tonight.

In addition to all those plans, we looked at some things called non- structural, these, between you and me, are small scale flood control projects. We looked at the possibility of raising homes, placing ring levees around homes, small walls, buy-outs in a couple of communities. Those communities we call the Demanade Park, Bendel Gardens, Bois de Lafayette and Ashland Park area. These are some of the lower lying areas in

Lafayette. Those turned out not to be feasible projects, so those are no longer under consideration, but the plan that we're going to present here tonight will provide benefits to those communities.

Also under 8(a) we did implement and put in early flood threat recognition system along the Vermilion River. You can go out to the USDA Web Site and get the realtime data. And that was put out under this particular study. So these were just some of the types of things we've been doing since 1996. So out of the eight alternatives we have dredging, we have the Isaac Verot that we're currently working on at a different pace, putting our efforts on the Vermilion River dredging, and we have Town of Carencro that we're looking at under a separate Corps authority. It's not taking money out of this study. We put it into a program that better suits Carencro.

Okay. So let's turn our attention to what we're here to talk about tonight is the Vermilion River dredging Comprehensive Flood Introduction Plan. There's actually four dredging options that we've looked at for dredging along the Vermilion River. They're all located along

the Vermilion River in Lafayette Parish. These plans do not get off the river and start going into coulees or tributaries or the Bayou Tortue Swamp. They stay in the river. The work proposed stays within the existing banks. We're not increasing the top width of the channel, so we're not going to be cutting into folks' homes, properties and so forth. We do not anticipate any major relocation of existing improvements along this ridge, and we do not require land acquisition again to increase that top width. The idea here is to stay within existing channels and remove material.

The reason that we had to consider four dredging options is, when you start saying I'm going to dredge the river, where does it start and where does it end? Because you know there's got to be one plan that will give you the greatest benefit of all, if you will. So that's why we looked at four different options and evaluated each of those.

Okay. Those options were real creative. 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D. 1A begins at Bayou Tortue, goes three miles, and winds up at Coulee Des Poches. 1B goes from Bayou Tortue to the Pinhook

Bridge. That's about three point seven miles. The third plan goes from Bayou Tortue to Coulee Mine, and that's about four point eight miles. And the fourth plan goes from Bayou Tortue to the Milton Bridge. This is all along the Vermilion River. It doesn't get into the swamp. It doesn't go up in the coulees. It stays on the Vermilion River.

Okay. Let's take a look at that one preferably. Okay. What we're looking at here, here's our north arrow. This is some topography of St. Martin Parish, Lafayette Parish, Vermilion Parish over here, St. Landry Parish up in this area. Here's the airport. Here's the Bayou Tortue Swamp. The Vermilion River here is this heavy black line, and I'm going north to south right now, okay, so just to orient everyone to this map. Okay?

The first plan we looked at, we call 1A, starts here on the Vermilion River and heads south to Coulee Des Poches. The next plan, 1B, starts here, continues down, and winds up at this point near the Pinhook Bridge. The third plan we call 1C again begins at this point and winds up at Coulee Mine. And then finally we said, Well, why

don't we just run a plan of the entire Parish limits. So we started here, we ran to this point, around the Milton Bridge area near the Parish boundary, 1D. When we started looking at this, we ran what we call a sonar, a multi- beam survey. It's a real high tech survey, not just a cross section, but we actually have a footprint of this entire river bottom. Pretty impressive. When you take a look at it, something sticks out at you. And that's what these yellow dots do. These dots represent what I'm calling here obstruction and debris removal sites. They're acting as chokes on the Vermilion River. You usually find down where some of the major coulees dump water into the Vermilion River, the velocity slows down in the river, and the material in that water falls out. That material has built up over time. So it was our feeling, whatever you do, you need to remove these yellow debris sites. These aren't man made. This material is flushed down the coulees and deposited in the river, because the river doesn't have a very strong velocity, and it sits and builds up. So of course when the water is trying to go this way, it hits this plug, it backs up, and it has to back up high enough to get over that

plug. And the same thing here. If the water's going this way, hits that plug, it's got to build up real high here to get over this plug. The water naturally flows into this area. It's always done that, but the idea here, whatever plan we go with, we recognize the need for removal of these yellow sediment deposits.

In addition, if you're going to remove this material, the next question is where are you going to place it. So we've identified two disposal sites. The Parish as I understand has spoken to the landowner on this one disposal site, which appears to be a willing landowner to work with us and provide us with that particular area. One to the south is a potential disposal area. We have not had communication with that landowner, but in the beginning our preferred plan, our recommended plan, which is 1C, will only require this disposal site. The only plan that required this disposal site plus this one was 1D. A, B and C only require one site, which is kind of nice for us.

Okay. Now, what you've seen so far, that's what it looks like from Bayou Tortue down to Coulee Mine or so forth in plan view. What you

have right now in the Vermilion River, and if you'll go to our cartoon here, but we've got a typical cross section of the Vermilion River going through Lafayette Parish. Here's the top of that, the channel. You'll often find homes on the river banks. You'll often have a bulkhead or a dock, a gazebo, and so forth. I'm guesstimating here, this is for conceptual purposes just to run the idea across, but the typical top width of the Vermilion River is approximately two hundred feet. The average water surface elevation, the average height of the water when it's not raining, under normal conditions, is what we call an elevation five point eight. So the average depth in the Vermilion is about twelve to fifteen feet.

What I want to show you now is what are we proposing to do in dredging. Are we talking about here in dredging? No. We're talking about dredging this piece. Now, again bear with me. This is a conceptual drawing. But this is the idea that we have right now is to come into this bottom, dig it out. Of course now you've got this extra area which improves the conveyance of the capacity of the channel to pass that flood wall. We'll dredge anywhere from say two to five feet.

There are some areas that are going to be a little deeper, because those are in the areas that have settlement deposits, those yellow dots. Those are the areas where the majority of the material is going to be removed.

When we look at a typical cross section, when you're away from those yellow dots, closer to two to three foot removal of material, we're getting those dots where they're acting as chokes. That's when you're talking about the five to six feet of material that, in my opinion, you need to remove that regardless of what you do. The width here, and again it's an estimate, but about a hundred foot improved bottom. It varies where you go in the river, but for explanation purposes I think this is pretty typical of the work proposed.

Okay. I've already mentioned that 1C is the Corps recommended plan. What we had to do was an economic analysis. I'm not going to get into great detail, but we had to do an economic analysis on all four reaches, A, B, C and D. And ultimately we computed what you call annual net benefits, the project that's going to give the residents the greatest dollar benefits. That's what we have to find from the federal government.

That's the plan the federal government wants to invest in. And it so happens that plan 1C provides that dollar amount. It's interesting that 1A, B and C and are all pretty close; two point one, two point two, two point two- three.

But you look at D and say, "Well, D would probably give you more benefits." But actually if you look at the top of the page actually this is the lowest plan. So there was no way that 1D was going to become that National Economic Development plan. As it turned out it was 1C was the NED plan. Okay. Well, that confirmed the dollar benefits. 1C gives you that.

Now, what about in terms of what we call stage lowerings, or how much is the river going to drop if this proposed plan is put in place? Well, if you look here, if a ten year event occurs -- you often hear, oh, we got a hundred year storm is occurring every year. Okay? Well, that's what I'm talking about here. You got a ten year frequency and a hundred year frequency. Well, without any project in place, if the ten year event occurs, the water elevation on the Vermilion River around Surrey Street is going to go to approximate elevation of twelve point four. And

I'm going to explain this on the next slide a little better. With our project, we can reduce the height of the water by a height of one point three feet, so we would reduce the stage of the water by one point three feet.

If the hundred year event occurs, we could reduce that water level by almost two feet, one point eight on that slide. So instead of the water getting to this point at a hundred years, it would getting this high on the hundred years.

Let's take a look at this next slide. Again, if you'll go with me on my cartoon slide. Here's a cross section of the Vermilion River. And I've drawn some houses here on the banks, and I've got a slab elevation on this house at elevation fifteen, and a slab elevation here at fourteen point five. And by the way, those are typical slab elevations of homes along the river. There are a few that are lower, but for the most part they start kind of at that elevation and go up. Again, that's based on some of the data we've collected. Typical event, regular day, no rain's been occurring, the water in the river is at about elevation five point eight mean sea level. Okay?

So the house is about ten feet above the

water. If the hundred year event occurs right now, the water is going to go to elevation sixteen point three. This house receives one point three feet of water in it. This house receives one point eight feet of water in it if the hundred year event occurred today. Bear with me because this is a conceptual idea, but it would happen if these homes were at the elevation.

If our project were in place, improving this bottom, water fills in there, and now the hundred year event comes, the stage would be lowered to elevation fourteen point five, so the safe drop by one point eight, so this house and this scenario is six inches above the water. This house is actually even with the water. So that just kind of gives you an idea of the one point eight foot reduction in the stage or river height for the hundred year event. Let's go back to that slide.

The interesting thing here is we believe if we implement this project for the hundred year event, of those five hundred structures that I've alluded to earlier that are at risk, we could remove approximately seventy- five percent of those structures out of harm's way when it comes

to the hundred year flood. So we feel that's a pretty good amount of homes or structures that are removed from that category.

Okay. What are some of the primary features of alternative 1C? Well, again it's dredging the Vermilion River, staying within the river in Lafayette Parish from Bayou Tortue to Coulee Mine. That's approximately four point eight miles, and we're saying somewhere removing two to five feet of material, depending upon where you are in the river, keeping in mind the majority of the material depth is going to come within the yellow dot areas. The work is within the existing banks. It includes the removal of those sedimentation deposits. It's approximately three hundred and fifty- one thousand cubic yards of material that would be removed.

Material would be dredged by hydraulic dredge, and we've got a picture of one on the next slide and I'll show you what that looks like. The disposal area is to the north. It's approximately two hundred acres located on the opposite side of the river from the airport. No adverse impact upstream or downstream of your neighbors. We've run our hydraulic models. The improvements are

basically going to lower the stage near the project area. Upstream the water elevations will remain the same as it is today. Downstream in Vermilion Parish they'll remain the same as they are today. The improvements are in the project area of Lafayette Parish as well as any community that ultimately drains into the Vermilion River will see benefits.

We believe it's engineering feasible. We've run our feasibility analysis. Things appear to be feasible. So that's the positive course and it is an environmentally compliant plan as well.

Okay. I mentioned the hydraulic dredge. This is a photo of a hydraulic dredge. I'm not telling you this is the type of dredge or the exact dredge that would be used, but we found this on the internet today. I want to give you some idea of what we're referring to. The length of this dredge is fifty feet long. It's approximately twenty feet wide. The nice thing is when you remove these studs you can actually get this barge down to about eleven foot height. So it's eleven foot high and about twenty foot wide, and we believe that this should fit underneath many of the bridges, so it's a little bit easier

to operate along the Vermilion River.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

What size is it?

MR. WINGATE:

That's a fourteen inch hydraulic dredge. Okay. We have the acquisition of a five year disposal easement. This kind of tells you your construction schedule. Year 1, we would dredge the river and dispose of the material in that northern disposal site. So that's the time that this dredge will be out there working, approximately one year, to remove that material.

Year 2, you're not going to see anyone out there working. It's a dry- out period, because this material going to be pumped into the disposal area is primarily water. And it's got to go through a treatment process, sediment's got to drop out and the water goes back into the river once it's been cleaned out.

At Year 3 we come back in with some new material that we place on top of that dredge material, because there's going to be some trash in that material. Over the years it's built up, so we need to cover that with some good -- with a good blend of earth material.

Year 4, we want that entire disposal site to settle out. Year 5, we're at the Corps, we're evaluating the performance of that disposal site, and at Year 6 we would turn that whole project over to the Parish for what we call Operation and Maintenance. So the Parish would be responsible for operating and for maintaining the project and enforcing the Flood Plain Management Plan, but if the Corps comes in and reduces the hundred year event by one point eight feet, we can't have new development that rushes water right back into the river and takes away our benefits. We have to make sure that there's a Flood Plain Management Plan in place that will take care of that over the project life which is fifty years.

What is the cost of 1C? There's four point eight miles of dredging. We're looking at about Seven and A Half Million ($7,500,000.00) Dollars for the project. It's a cost share project, sixty- five/thirty- five. Sixty- five percent by the federal government, approximately Five Million ($5,000,000.00) Dollars; thirty- five percent from Lafayette Parish, which would be about Two and A Half Million ($2,500,000.00) Dollars.

This third bullet I've put in here, any project that we work on has to have a benefit to cost ratio. The benefit to cost ratio with the federal government at least got to be one-point-oh. If the cost is even with the benefits, the federal government participates. Many of the projects have a hard time reaching the benefit to cost ratio of one point oh. This project has a very healthy benefit to cost ratio of five to one.

What does that mean? Ultimately we have enough benefits that we're capturing from this Seven and A Half Million ($7,500,000.00) Dollar project that you could have spent justifiably so Forty Million ($40,000,000.00) Dollars. So the benefits that were catching justify spending Forty Million ($40,000,000.00) Dollars, but we only need to spend Seven and A Half Million ($7,500,000.00) Dollars. So our benefit to cost ratio is very, very healthy.

Okay. Talked about 1C. We're here to solicit your input, so where do we go to next? Well, we're currently developing our feasibility report. It's a draft report. This plan has actually been developed just recently, over about

the last four to five months, because we've been working on many of those other plans and we've finally going to get this particular plan.

This feasibility report being sent to our higher authority, we've got a date of April of '02. That's contingent upon what we hear tonight from your support. Your feedback is also contingent upon the Parish supporting this project and being the local sponsor. If all that goes well, we're looking at initiating that Step 3 in the latter part -- at the beginning of fiscal year '03, which is October of this calendar year. So if all goes well, we get this report submitted and approved, as well as if Lafayette Parish will sign on the dotted line to do that Step 3, we can begin in October of '03 and complete in September of calendar year '04. Bottom line, we ultimately begin construction around probably closer to December or January of 2005. Probably January, 2005 is when we're looking to start construction on this project.

Okay. Next action steps is what we're here tonight. We're seeking your level of support, feedback, and perhaps any questions, and modify this plan for you.

Let me just wrap it up with a summary. We feel that a comprehensive plan has been developed with this 1C plan. We feel that we can remove about seventy- five percent of those five hundred homes out from harm's way for the hundred year event. The construction is about seven and a half million. The project life is fifty years. One of the keys here, the benefits that we receive from this project have to be maintained by the Parish over the fifty years, so that's going to be enforced through the Flood Plain Management Plan. It's got an extremely strong benefit to cost ratio. We're here to determine the level of support for the project. If you don't get a chance tonight to ask your question, if you think about a question over the next couple of days, there's a self- addressed stamped envelope. I'd ask you all to do one thing, because I ran out of time on this, but on your envelope if you could address the attention to Ms. Mireya Laigast who is up here. She serves as the project manager now with myself, and you've got that in your handouts so you can write the name on top of your envelope and send that into us. We're looking for comments back by April 19th. Obviously we'll take them

after that date, but that gives us about two weeks to receive any written comments so we can try to meet this schedule.

Also, there will be some project information out there on this dredging project. The web site is under construction, but it will be called what you see there on your handout. And with that I would open it up to discussion and take it from there.

I believe the way we would like to do this is if anyone has a question to ask, we'll ask that they come up here so we can take the notes. Mr. Schoeffler is first.

MR. SCHOEFFLER:

Thank you, Mark. One of the questions I would have, comes to mind first. I'm Harold Schoeffler, resident of Lafayette, live on the bayou, and over the years traveled the old Vermilion Bayou almost, and the watershed that goes in from Alexandria all the way into the Vermilion Bay. I'm real concerned about the impact you will have on St. Martin Parish, because living on the bayou right at the north end of where this project will start, right at Carencro, right across, I have four acres over there right

on the bayou. The bayou flows during a flood north, and it would appear to me that if you deepen this, you will aid that flow, you will increase the flow into the Cypress Island Swamp into St. Martin Parish, and perhaps raise levels there. I'd be real concerned about that.

MR. WINGATE:

Appreciate that, Mr. Schoeffler. The way that I would address that is right now without the project, right now with the project without the hundred year, and without protection and without this project, if the hundred year event occurs, the river, near this point, someone could go to elevation approximately sixteen point three. Whatever that elevation is, the water in the swamp might go to that elevation. That's going to be highest in the swamp area, and what I'm saying on this project is, in the hundred year event the water in the river is going to be one point eight feet lower. It would be impossible, but for the stage of the water height in the swamp to be higher than that of the river, because that's where the water's coming from. So the height in the swamp will also be reduced by one point eight feet. The only way that the water would be higher

if the water's coming from the Vermilion River, and I think we all agree that's where the water's coming from, is if we were to put it in there with a pump and force water in. But it's all grafted bed. There's not going to be any structures at the swamp and the river. So, again, if the water's this high in the Vermilion River, you just run a plane, it has to be the same height that would be in the swamp. So, again, it would be one point eight feet lower in that swamp area.

LESTER GUIDRY:

I'm Nelson Guidry, the Post Commander of Post 69. We're right at the Vermilion River, and we also have on our property a big eyesore, the City pumping water out of the subdivision just northwest, north to northeast of us. And I'm asking the question, because I've seen that river just past the bridge and nothing happens, because all the sediment and stuff keeps stacking, stacking, stacking. And I saw your yellow spots up there. Isn't there not something there at the bridge that's impeding that flow of traffic of the water there? And then they have a pump right there at the bridge that's pumping all the water out of the subdivision. So has that been

considered? We have eight acres of property here, and we have a pumping station, and we have a beautiful piece of property. So has that been considered, that pump, and what's going to happen to that bridge, because every time we have even a heavy rain the water that comes off my property, the property at Oakbourne, that water's up to the bridge. So has that been looked at?

MR. WINGATE:

Appreciate the question. As I mentioned, on the 1C plan or any of the plans you're going to move those yellow locations which are really high, and again, we did some very detailed surveys and we've identified that. We also recognize that the bridges we have here are going to be a collection point for debris. And those bridges would be swept as well. So the bottom of that river, within the reach of improvements will all be cleaned out. Any bridges south of that 1C area would not be cleaned out. We did not identify any spots there with considerable debris. If that would come to our attention, we could include that in the plan. That's why it was so important when we picked 1C was to make sure that we have a plan to remove those spots of high sedimentation.

LESTER GUIDRY:

Have you all considered the flow of water that's coming out of that pump the City has? I think they have two pumps in the building and then they have a tractor that's an eyesore and another pump because they can't keep up with the system that they have here, so it had to have been considered that all the amount of water as being put plus what's coming down the river?

MR. WINGATE:

Yes. When we did our model, we did what we call a hydrology study. And what we did is we looked at the entire watershed and we computed the amount of water that was generated over that watershed, so not only from that particular drainage basin coming in but all the drainage basins that ultimately come into the Vermilion River were included in the analysis, which by the way I think the maximum flow rates on the Vermilion River were somewhere around eighty- nine hundred cubit feet per second. So those were the types of numbers that went into this analysis.

DONNA ROMERO:

My name is Donna Romero. I'm a resident of Cypress Island. Even though we did crash

Bill's party, I have a question about the 1C. It doesn't include 1A and 1B at all because of the dollar figures in there. Am I understanding that correctly?

MR. WINGATE:

1C includes the 1A and 1B work.

DONNA ROMERO:

It does?

MR. WINGATE:

Yes.

DONNA ROMERO:

Okay. So then that would benefit the St. Martin Parish, because 1A starts right here at the Vermilion River?

MR. WINGATE:

Yes, ma'am.

DONNA ROMERO:

Okay. So that covers all that area?

MR. WINGATE:

Correct.

DONNA ROMERO:

My next question would be, in June when we had Allison when we flooded so bad, it was two years that we had dredged the Vermilion River. Was that the reason you think that that Cypress

Island flooded so badly because of the dredging that occurred two years prior? I know there's a lot of questions. A lot of residents never did have water before in those areas, and all of a sudden in June it was really bad on Cypress Island, more so than ever.

MR. WINGATE:

I'm going to answer. We met with Mr. Angelle looking at that potential under our studies and try to develop that area. The thing that I will mention here is -- again, the dredging work on Vermilion River then did not cause that flooding. But I will say before I turn it over to Bill though is the work we're proposing here today that we can reduce that Vermilion River by one point eight feet, because your waters flow in that Vermilion, so the lower drainage that's going to help the St. Martin Parish.

DONNA ROMERO:

Okay.

MR. CAMPBELL:

The bulk of the rainfall that fell, Erath, Youngsville, Broussard and towards the Bayou Tortue area, Lafayette didn't receive that much rainfall, so that flooding was because they

had so much rainfall.

DONNA ROMERO:

And a lot of residents just want to make sure something hadn't been done without all of us being aware.

MR. CAMPBELL:

The dredging that was done actually helps carry the water out quicker.

DONNA ROMERO:

Yes. And what Mark says sounds really good, but then if you're lowering it one foot, it's got to be, you know, be the same thing, the swamp. Can you promise me that it's going to happen?

My next question is, who is going to be the one in charge? Because you know when Bill is gone, who's going to take his place and make sure it gets done? That's my question.

MR. WINGATE:

I appreciate that, Ms. Romero. In terms of who will be responsible, as I mentioned, the Corps going to have to sign a contract with a non-federal agency to operate and maintain the project, which I'm assuming is going to be Lafayette Parish. They would be responsible for

operating and maintaining the project. One of the nice things here, and I have no doubt that Lafayette would do a wonderful job of operating and maintaining, but you don't have, you know, pumps, locks to open up, gates to open up. We're cleaning out the bottom of the river. The big thing I see is that Super Wal- Mart comes in and generates a lot of water. That's going to be handled. That's why I tried to get the presentation of the Flood Plain Management Plan. That's got to be enforced to make sure that if we drop flood level by one point eight flood, we don't put more in after the foot, not just half of what we started with.

MR. CAMPBELL:

That's part of what we're doing right now, too, requiring any new development to do retention facilities. They can't take a piece of property and let any more water run off of that property than what runs off it before they develop it. If you go to Wal- Mart or Lowe's or places like that, you'll see little pond looking things there in the front of the store and the back of the store, and that's what that is. So we're already seeing that in Lafayette. And as far as

maintaining, it's been over fifty years since the river was dredged before. We don't think we're going to have to dredge it again. The only thing we may have to do is work with the Bayou Vermilion District periodically to get a barge, a tug boat in there just to backwash to keep that silt moving, keep it going. That's what happened when these places built up. There's no longer navigation in the river. They moved the shell yards from Pinhook to Ambassador Caffery and now it's down there by Milton. So they no longer have barges coming in the river with the backwashing of the tug boats, so what we want to do is we think we can work together and every once in a while hire someone to just come in and do some backwashing to help move the silt and keep it going down.

MR. ANGELLE:

Good evening. My name is Scott Angelle. I'm the Parish President of St. Martin Parish. I want to thank Mark and the Corps of Engineers for a fine presentation and compliment the City-Parish President Walter Comeaux and his staff for providing us some early leadership on this matter.

Particularly with regards to the project

in St. Martin Parish, one thing that I do have some concern, Mark, you did mention and we all have come to understand that as we circumvent the river does flow north. And you talk about the hundred year event. One thing that I have some concern about, and I'm hoping that you can calm that concern, is the fact that -- well, can you tell me where on this map the river begins to flow north in a certain event?

MR. WINGATE:

I'm going to tell you what our hydrology person told us, and it's probably you have Ils de Cannes coming from this area. You have Isaac Verot Coulee. And I'm understanding all this occurred at this point, but keep in mind that you had a very heavy rainfall in the Coulee Mine basin only.

MR. ANGELLE:

In both of those examples my concern is that it begins to flow north south of the improvements. It doesn't make sense. It begins to flow north south of 1C.

MR. WINGATE:

That's correct.

MR. ANGELLE:

And what we experience in St. Martin is while we have a lot of the back water conditions where we begin to notice the Vermilion River rising and flooding into St. Martin a day or two or two and a half days after the event ceases, what concerns me is that you've pointed out that you have at least a couple of sites that the river does flow north and let's not use the hundred year event, but let's use the ten or fifteen year event, what does concern me is that the improvements that you are going to make are going to allow the water to flow north faster, because all your improvements that you are making are to the north, and if it's coming to the north now and you take out a couple of feet, is it going to come north faster or do you expect the heavy pressure coming from the north to push it down south. That's a big concern that we would have over there, and it may be an unfounded concern, and it may be a concern based on my own ignorance, but obviously, would certainly protect the St. Martin Parish situation there.

MR. WINGATE:

Appreciate the question. The water levels in this area would be the same whatever the

stage is of this river. If the stage of the water here stay up high enough, the water in this area is going to be the same height. That's the worse case scenario. If the river on the Vermilion, the Vermilion River, the water height stays long enough, the water in the swamp goes to elevation. If the ten year event occurred today, I forget the exact number we've got in the chart, the water level in this area would be around twelve to twelve point five. With our project in place, the water will be about one point two or one point lower than that.

Now, that raises an interesting question. Well, what about aren't you going to increase velocity then more water will come in and so forth. Well, we had the same question. In fact, we went back and we looked at our results, and what's interesting is that actually the velocities in some places increased and in some places they decreased. It's a function of where the rain falls. But the velocity never really increased a whole lot or decreased a whole lot. So I don't expect to see velocities significantly changing. Really all you're going to see change is the height of the water. If the event occurred today,

the water is going to be at this elevation. With our project in place, it's going to be about a foot lower. Okay? We're not going to change velocities significantly. We're not going to change the flow direction. The water still at times goes to the south and at times goes to the north. And I don't know how we can change that without spending millions, considerable money. The distance from here out to the Vermilion Bay is about forty-five miles. If this floods the hundred year event, the water stacks up to elevation sixteen. Well, Vermilion Bay is probably at elevation zero or one. So you only have fifteen or sixteen feet of water over a forty- five mile reach of water. So you're not going to stop this north flow or the south flow. What we can do is reduce that water level, and that's what this project does.

MR. CAMPBELL:

Let me ask a question. At the bottom of the channel you're going to have a flow line that's level, or is it going to be sloped north to south, or south to north? What is the flow line profile of the bottom of the channel going to be?

MR. WINGATE:

The flood line channel basically is going to be parallel to what the bottom is now. It's a sweeping about a two to a three foot removal of material for that reach with the exception where you have those high sediment areas, the areas that are identified in yellow.

MR. CAMPBELL:

We're not really lowering the channel to make it go to the swamp?

MR. WINGATE:

No. It's consistent all the way across. It's the removal of that material that's deposited there over the last, who knows, a minimal fifty years probably.

MR. ANGELLE:

On water conditions on the -- when you showed the elevation at five point eight, isn't that -- when you showed the profile, this may be another ignorant question, but when you get to -- when you added your feature where you did your excavation, at that time would the top level at five point eight be lowered after the removal?

MR. WINGATE:

No. At normal stage? No. Because that

height right there is going to be a function of development. And, you know, if you look at this section from forty- five miles down the Vermilion Bay, you're only talking about a three to five mile radius. It's just a little piece running through the Lafayette area, okay, on entire Vermilion River. So this five point eight would be unaffected.

MR. ANGELLE:

And if it's unaffected, then help me understand how in high water conditions it is affected.

MR. WINGATE:

Okay. Right now if you go out and get the velocities, the water probably close to stagnant, I would assume. Okay? The water is not really moving along the Vermilion River right now. Now, when you start getting rain events, now you start talking about conveying water down the river, so you have improved section. Okay? The section is clean. Now, let's not forget there were about eight of those yellow dots there that were choking the water. So a little real quick class on hydrology if I can. The waters over here pass over my head, it's got to be a real problem

if you're over my head. So that's what's happening right now. If the choke backs up, piles up, or gets backed up, we've got to move those chokes, and this water during the storm then will flow down river much more efficiently. Right now you're not too bad for flooding event. It just holds this water. It's moving, but it's not like it is during a flood event. There's two different scenarios. What you're doing here is you're improving the channel, you're making it smoother. You're reducing friction. You're removing the sediment areas, so when the storm then occurs, the water can move in and out of that system.

MR. ANGELLE:

Is it possible, if I could maybe ask a point, is it possible to stay within the banks, the two hundred foot bank, the top width, to do this?

MR. WINGATE:

That would be nice.

MR. CAMPBELL:

We would like that, too.

MR. WINGATE:

Well, what happens, we have some geotechnical experts in the house, but we when we

start to cut close to those red lines, that's why I've got those drawn in, those are bulkheads. And stability of those bulkheads based upon the amount of earth that's available to hold those bulkheads in place, and when you start removing that earth material, then the bulkhead would fall in, then the gazebos could fall in.

MR. ANGELLE:

But what kind -- are you talking about a five to one ratio, and we're in a situation where we're only talking about Seven and A Half Million ($7,500,000.00) Dollars. And we're talking about a project that's more than Forty Million ($40,000,000.00) Dollars. We're talking about making, you know -- the little bit of experience that I have tells me that this is where you flow your water at the bottom here, and if we could improve this, if in fact we get the money to do that, we could make a significant lifetime improvement on the Vermilion River affecting Carencro, possibly some of St. Landry, St. Martin as well as Lafayette, if we were able to come in here and pull out a few of these. And that may not be a possible thing to be allocated, but I just want to make sure that you all looked at

that.

MR. WINGATE:

Thank you. That was a good comment. And I'd like to go back. I know that hydrology folks looked at a bunch of different cross sections. I'm sure that one of them talked with the folks to see what types of benefits there might be.

MR. SCHOEFFLER:

Mark, I think that your particular few feet lowering is very optimistic, but essentially you're saying that dredging two feet, that'll lower the river three feet, and I'm just wondering in the back of my mind, God, if we dredge it six feet we lower the river six feet, and then we solve every problem. I think, you know, we're looking at a very minuscule part of this watershed, and if you look at the overall watershed, all of the waters that fall from Alexandria south, from the Atchafalaya west to the Mermentau system, all that water passes debris through the Vermilion and the Teche to reach sea level. So we pull an enormous watershed. Nature didn't design it that way. Nature designed the water from Washington, Louisiana, north to drain through Catalpa into the Atchafalaya, and the

Corps built a levee and closed Bayou Catalpa forcing all that water down the Vermilion and Teche.

Now, I'll get back to this one thing. The Teche has a dam on it, so the only unrestricted flow is down the Vermilion. So nature is carrying -- is giving the Vermilion a much greater task than it was originally designed by nature to do. So, until we address that, we're going to have a hard time dealing with these flood problems.

MR. WINGATE:

Well, Mr. Schoeffler, I hope you're not trying to hook me on that question. But let me address about the two point or two feet, you reduce it to -- you've reduced water two feet, who don't we dredge six feet. Keep in mind that yes, we are moving about two feet of material. But you see these yellow points here, that's in my opinion one of the major obstructions. It only makes sense. You've got this material piled up. I know when we took our sonar information, at that time, as I recall, it only had two to three feet of water in the river over some of these points. So it's an enormous amount of material that that

water's got to go over. So it's much more than this two foot of removal to get all of these obstruction points also in addition that's really bringing the stage down.

MR. MILLER:

Can you hear me back there? My name is Paul Miller. Mr. Schoeffler just told the truth. The only truth that has been told here tonight. Can you hear me? Watershed, that's the key thing that he said. I don't know how many pay attention to it. I have just finished a survey for the Department of Natural Resources on watershed in the State of Louisiana. And if you don't know about watershed, you don't know the facts about water and drainage. I'm sorry, but that's not going to work. It worked for two years, five years, ten years, and you're going to have the same. It may not be higher than you are, but it's going to get clogged in the same way.

One of the problems here is quite simple. Get a barge, a tow boat, run up and down, and all that, once upon a time, that was going on in the Vermilion River. I'm originally from North Louisiana, and we had two little bayous. And when I came down here to this country and started

driving around, looked like to me every hundred and sixty feet there was another bayou. And I thought, my God, this country is rich. Look at all this stuff. Look at these assets. In north Louisiana it takes two redheaded women and a quart of whiskey just to raise a fuss. I mean, it's a hard life. And you have in that river an enormous asset. Now, can I unfold some of these maps? I got a plan.

Okay. This is Lafayette, Louisiana. That's the color of it. And this is the Vermilion River here. Now, don't get excited about this. Just hold on. If you take a map and look, coming out of this area up here there's a whole bayou down through there. Okay. There's more ways to drain water out of this sunk area in here than you can imagine. The way to protect Cypress Island is to get the water many ways to get out of there, and this is all that here. (Indicating) The town of Cypress Island, you go down here and turn right, and where the road dead-ends, that's not Cypress Island? I'm not sure that road here. Oh, here it is. Cypress Island, right here. Okay. Here's what we've got to do. We've got to open up all this so that it ends up down here in the Great

Gulf of Mexico. Now, there are two ways to do that. I mean, there's more than two. There are more than two ways to do that. One is you utilize all of this area and put the waters into Lake Billeaud and then down this bayou and into the Gulf. And the other into a series of bayous over here on this side and ends up -- it ends up in the same place. All of it ends up down in here, in this area here. It's going to take a lot of money. It's going to take a lot of dredging, and just doing it and going off and leaving it is not going to work either. What needs to be done is to develop commerce and industry where you have tow boats and barges going up and down the river.

Now, this is the big master plan. I'm going to give the Corps enough work here to last you for the next hundred and fifty years. This is the Vermilion River, and this is Alexandria. Where's Mr. Schoeffler? We're going to send tow boats all the way to Alexandria. We're going to start up at the Vermilion River. We can do that. Let me tell you something. How many of you have ever been to Cottonport, Louisiana? You know where once upon a time, it's named Cottonport because they loaded cotton on steamboats. You

can't get into or out of Cottonport today with row boats, unless you're willing to get out and drag it over all kinds of stuff.

Let me tell you a little story here. In 1927, the Mississippi River -- in 1927 we had a huge flood on the Mississippi River. And five years later, in 1932, we had another one. And the United States Corps of Engineers acted under the 1928 Bill for the lower flood control commission. And they levied up the Mississippi River from Cairo, Illinois, to the Gulf of Mexico. Now, what happened when that second flood hit -- what happened when that second flood hit was this. Well, first of all we have to understand that the Corps of Engineers there's two things they can do in Louisiana. They are required, charged with two responsibilities: Flood control and navigation.

Navigation, they're charged with the responsibility of navigation. Well, navigation got lost when that second flood hit. And the only thing they were concerned about was flood control. And they have done a wonderful job. Since 1932 we have not had a serious flood in the lower Mississippi Valley.

However, they forgot all about

navigation. The State of Louisiana lost several hundred, probably something over a thousand miles of valuable waterways because of that. Webster Parish is as far north as you can go in the State of Louisiana. The next is Arkansas. Minden, Louisiana is the parish seat. And right outside of the city of Minden, there is a steamboat sunk. I know because when I was a kid we used to go down there and dive off of it. A lot of kids got hurt because of glass all around and they got cut. We know that that steamboat was loaded in New Orleans, Louisiana, and came up the Mississippi, came up Loggy Bayou, and sunk right outside of Minden. You cannot do that today. We have lost that whole area for commerce. The Mississippi River is now navigable to Shreveport. That was started right at the end of World War II. The point I'm trying to make here is Rick Cobb, he and I were roommates and he got -- I'm sorry about this. I'm just don't like these things. He and I were roommates and he's the one that did all the geology on that thing. That would have been about in 1946 when that got started. And it got finished four or five years ago when the last lock was completed. Now, I'm seventy- six, probably

some of you wondering what the hell does that old so and so up there think he's doing. But this is something that has to be done in the State of Louisiana. Has to be done. We may go another twenty years and have more newer disaster, but sooner or later everything I talked about here has got to be gone. And I just -- the Corps of Engineers is a worldwide organization. It's the best bunch of hydrological people on the face of this earth. But they are a bureaucracy and they are run by the Congress of the United States because that is who gives them their money. And Congress is made up of politicians, so you got the bureaucrats and politicians trying to figure out what to do next. You know exactly what that means.

It takes people such as sitting in this room to get things done. I know from personal experience which I'm not going to get into. But anyway, I've got these maps, and when things are over, you can come up here and look at them, talk about it, I would be more than happy to do it. Thank you.

MR. WINGATE:

Thank you, Mr. Miller. I do appreciate

your sincere interest in resolving the plan. Even things I think work well as well as, you know, along with what we're here to talk about tonight. Are there any other questions?

MR. BRASSO:

Good evening. My name is Patrick Brasso, and I don't know if it's so much a question or a comment, but I go along with Mr. Schoeffler and Mr. Angelle here. I'm an old country boy. And what we're looking at here is the big picture. Keeping it clean, the water is going to flow better. But dredging just the center of that thing would only deepen that channel. It's not going to change the top level of that water. The water is not going to go down by a foot in that area. It's going to be at the same level as the rest of it. Water doesn't bend like that. I don't think -- I'm not a hydrologist or an engineer, but water does seek its own level, and if you dig it deep enough the Gulf will back up into it.

If you want better drainage, you start opening at the mouth where it's at the Vermilion Bay and come north and clean the whole thing out. Mr. Angelle suggestion was one I already had

thought of, because I thought of widening the top above the water level so that when we do have flood conditions we've got more areas to handle this water and move it instead of it spreading out all over the community. The alternative would be cutting shoulders on the bottom, widening the bottom. It will handle a lot more water. That will reduce the level it's presently at.

Now, you said there's a pictorial where it came up sixteen feet or so and flooded these houses. Just dredging that, the only thing different is that in the center you're not going to have fourteen foot of water. You're going to have seventeen foot of water if you took another foot out. The level on top is going to remain the same, people. And if you have any knowledge, you all living where there are ditches, deepen that little ditch in front of your house for a little while and see how well that's going to drain that ditch. What you're going to end up with is a mud puddle in front of your house. It's going to retain water. You're going to have mosquitos. The drainage is not going to improve. You're going to get as much water in your yard as you did before you dug that hole.

This thing has to be dredged either south from Vermilion Bay all the way to Lafayette to this point to actually help it at all, or it needs to be widened. You're not going to help at all by digging it deeper. Not in just one spot, like you said, even the fifteen mile spread, we've got forty- five miles of river down there. That water will back up. The water coming north would be retained right there. All we'll have is a deeper channel. That's it. Surface ain't going to change at all. Thank you.

MR. WINGATE:

We appreciate your comments. Just in the interest of time, my response will be similar to what I've given to Mr. Angelle and I think to you others. Do we have any more questions?

MR. ANGELLE:

One more comment. Again, I want to thank Mark and his staff and I'm again thanking Bill and Parish President Comeaux for doing an excellent job finding a solution. Until Mr. Comeaux got involved, nothing had happened, and he deserves a tremendous amount of credit and the people in Lafayette Parish need to know this.

But having said that, inasmuch as the

project generates Forty Million ($40,000,000.00) Dollars of benefits, my concern is we've only got one chance to stab this pig. And if we do Seven and A Half Million ($7,500,000.00) Dollars worth of improvements, we never will be able to use those values to solve the rest of the problem. And I realize that a Forty Million ($40,000,000.00) Dollar tab is a big amount, and thirty- five percent has to be paid for by the local sponsor. Perhaps there could be some ways to help that sponsor. But if we come in and solve seventy percent of the problem and we don't -- we don't take advantage of everything that we qualify for in terms of the cost benefit, and I realize that that's the governing thing, you'll be in a sense not taking advantage of everything that we could and we forever lose that, because those benefits that we would have solved would not then be eligible in the next go around.

MR. WINGATE:

I appreciate your comments, Scott. Scott, what happens here is for the federal government to participate on the project, we had to do what we call a NED analysis. It stands for National Economic Development Plan. That is the

most money the federal government will contribute to a project. Well, we've identified our NED plan as 1C. The most the federal government will contribute to a project is sixty- five percent of seven and a half million. If we start cutting into those banks, our benefits drop and that C plan will still be the A and B plan. Now, if Lafayette Parish wants to come up with every dollar above seven and a half million of the forty, that would be a betterment. And the Parish would have an option. But the most the Corps, the federal government will come up with under current regulations would be sixty- five percent of the seven and a half million, because that turned out to be NED plan.

So to answer your question, is there an opportunity to get more money from the federal government, but unfortunately no.

MR. CAMPBELL:

Scott, we have to keep in mind feasible project for the Corps is also going to be feasible for us in Lafayette's Consolidated Government and the parish. We unfortunately wouldn't be able to participate thirty- five percent of a Forty Million ($40,000,000.00) Dollar project. That

would be way too high for us. Maybe something like that, if we were to get a project of that nature, everybody should participate. Maybe some kind of tax, a flood tax or whatever, three or four parishes would be of benefit. And Mr. Miller's ideas of all this dredging is great again, but I'm afraid that the B/C ratio would probably not make the one to one on something like that. That would be extremely expensive.

MR. GUIDRY:

He hit a raw nerve on bureaucracy and politics. I've seen things happen in other parts of the country, Colorado, California, New York, Boston. The city of Boston re-routed their interstate highway system, and it had to import mud to do that. Now, my problem here to start with, how important is it that we even look at it? It's flooding people, it's hurting commerce, and it's causing perhaps lives. In a storm or a hundred year flood we would have the same problem that Boston would have had or the east coast would have had if they don't have the highways. A highway and the river is the same thing. So my question to the Corps of Engineers, and I know we have to get around politicians, but is this enough

for what we'll need to do for this community? Not Lafayette Parish, but this part of Louisiana that has to use this flood plain. You know, St. Martinville's got a problem, that we back up into their system. Down river's got a problem. And then I was asked the question about the build up. Now, my question to the City-Parish, what are you going to do about all these -- Lafayette is at what, thirty-five feet? And so when we get six inches of rain and we don't have the flow. That's going to put a lot more water on a hard surface that's going to run in. Everything gets done in all the these other parts of the country, and I want see a value put on this project that works throughout the State.

MR. WINGATE:

Thank you. I don't know if we could ever do enough, and that's why we have people just like you all today to talk about flood control in St. Martin Parish. That's why Mr. Angelle was in our office after hours and we talked about a project for St. Martin Parish. There are other projects that are also on the books that were not. We have Alexandria to the Gulf. We have the Atchafalaya system. We have a meeting coming up in Crowley on

the 22nd and 23rd to talk about flood damages with many different agencies. So I appreciate your comments and hopefully that's the direction we're going. Any other questions?

MR. CAMPBELL:

I'd like to thank you all for all the work that you're all doing. Glad that the Department of Transportation and Development has been so gracious to pick up the local share of the funding for the study through our delegation. So if you have nothing else, we really appreciate you all showing up tonight, and anything that you all can come up with, if you take the envelope there and send Mark a letter, I think it will be really appreciated. Anything else? Thank you all for coming.

(WHEREUPON THE HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:35 P.M.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, SANDRA L. SONNIER, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this hearing was taken, do hereby certify that the foregoing 62 pages is a true and correct reflection of the proceedings;

That the hearing was reported by me in machine shorthand and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct record, to the best of my ability and understanding;

That I am not of counsel, not related to counsel or the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

_____

SANDRA L. SONNIER
Certified Court Reporter
Louisiana C.C.R. Number 75008