



Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System

Input sought for master plan development

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held public scoping meetings in Opelousas and Port Allen, La. on December 13 and 14, 2010 (respectively). During these meetings, the Corps sought input on the current and future management of nearly 50,000 acres of Corps-owned public lands and natural resources within the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System. This input is important as the Corps updates the project master plan for manage-

ment of the agency's lands and waters of Bayou Des Ourses, Indian Bayou, and Shatters Bayou.

Each meeting began with an overview of current issues and potential improvements to public access and natural resources management in the basin, as well as a summary and schedule for the master plan update. Following the presentation, community members interested in a variety of Atchafalaya Basin activities, including paddling,

crawfishing, camping and hunting provided feedback on how to maximize public access and enhance fish and wildlife resources, while balancing interests and minimizing adverse impacts to the project area.

Feedback and comments on the master plan can be submitted until January 12, 2011 by calling the Public Affairs office at (504) 862-2037 or by e-mailing ABFS@usace.army.mil.



Commander's Desk

Reaching our goal requires a strong final push

The progress made on the greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) since Hurricane Katrina is nothing short of incredible. To have come so far, so fast, was not work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers alone. This level of progress was only possible through the tireless efforts and total commitment of our partners, sponsors, stakeholders and contractors. If even one of these groups had not shared the same determination in providing Southeast Louisiana with 100-year level risk reduction, we would be nowhere near where we stand today.

While it is good to look back on the great strides we have made, we are not across the finish line yet. On August 29, 2010, President Obama stood before a crowd at Xavier University and reaffirmed his commitment, as well as a commitment by President Bush before him, to "finish this system by next year so that this city is protected against a 100-year storm." When we enter the new year, we will have 152 days left to fulfill this promise. To succeed, we will all need to focus our efforts, renew our dedication and apply all of our talents and energies toward one final push.

My team and I are personally and professionally committed to completing this mission. The end goal is more important than any long-standing process, outdated policies or risk-averse actions. Without sacrificing either quality or safety,

we will find a way to bring projects to 100-year level of risk reduction by June 1, 2011. We will increase our efforts to break through red tape, solve problems close to the project, accept some managed risk and use every single resource that we can get our hands on.

Highly effective and expedient internal and external communications will be integral to these efforts and will need to occur as close to the project as possible. Rapid and effective communication; situational awareness of critical needs; and issue understanding and resolution are key to keeping and advancing schedules. We will take input from all of our teammates and they will participate in developing our courses of action. This includes our contractors, state and local partners and all organizations within the Corps of Engineers. Overall, open communication will ensure that all of us remain on the same page, feel the same sense of urgency and share a single vision.

And that vision? For me, it is the Corps standing shoulder to shoulder with our local and state partners, contractors and stakeholders presenting the men and women of Southeast Louisiana with a 100-year level risk reduction system on the first day of June 2011. With your help, this vision will become a reality.

Merry Christmas,
Finish Strong!
Col. Ed Fleming



HSDRRS

Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity risk reduction efforts in Jefferson and St. Charles parishes move forward

Below is a brief look at the current status of the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity work currently under way in Jefferson and St. Charles parishes. The total construction costs are estimated at \$500 million for work in Jefferson Parish and approximately \$100 million for work in St. Charles Parish.



Jefferson Parish

- Approximately 99 percent of the 9.1 miles of perimeter levees are at 100-year risk reduction elevations. All embankment work is complete with the turf establishments remaining.
- Construction is under way at all five lake-front reaches. The final contract, which includes improvements to the levee adjacent to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, was awarded in September.
- Six non-levee structure contracts are under construction. The breakwater at Bonnabel and Duncan pump stations are substantially complete, as are the floodwalls and flood-gates at Bonnabel and Williams boulevards.
- Construction of the fronting protection for the four East Jefferson pump stations began in April.
- Construction at the Causeway Boulevard Peninsula has begun.
- The construction for the northern portion of the West Return Wall is under way. For the southern portion, the recent dismissal of the post-award protest has allowed construction the begin..

St. Charles Parish

- Approximately 30 percent of the 9.5 miles of perimeter levees are at 100-year risk reduction elevations. All but one of the remaining contracts are under construction.
- The project's final contract, the 160-foot-long Shell pipeline floodwall, is scheduled to begin this month.
- Construction of T-wall floodwalls at the Almedia and Walker Drainage Structures, as well as the Goodhope Floodwall have been completed.
- The Gulf South Floodwall is nearly complete.
- Work continues at the Bayou Trepagnier Complex, the Cross Bayou Drainage Structure, the St. Rose Drainage structure, Interstate 310 Floodwall and the Illinois Central Railroad Gate.
- Any structures where the existing protection is being degraded for construction purposes, temporary flood protection is being placed.
- The levee work is expected to be completed in Spring 2011, with all structures and floodwalls being completed by June 2011.

Coastal Protection and Ecosystem Restoration

Scoping meetings held for the diversion at Myrtle Grove feasibility study

“Focus on sediment placement,” “limit the amount of freshwater,” and “form a stakeholder group” were just some of the many comments the Corps of Engineers and State of Louisiana project team received during November’s Louisiana Coastal Area, Medium Diversion at Myrtle Grove scoping meetings. These meetings were held as a kickoff for the Medium Diversion at Myrtle Grove with Dedicated Dredging project feasibility study.

As part of the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) program, this project is focused on large scale coastal and ecosystem restoration within the Barataria Basin. Authorized in the Water Resources and Development Act of 2007, the feasibility study will look at a medium-sized freshwater diversion located on the west bank of the Mississippi River near the community of Myrtle Grove in Plaquemines Parish.

The project would also include a dedicated effort to place dredged material in the project area to enhance the benefits of the diversion and aid in marsh creation.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act requirements for federal actions having a significant effect on the environment, three scoping meetings were held to provide the public with an opportunity to share ideas, concerns, and insight on the proposed Medium Diversion at Myrtle Grove project and the potential area impacted by the project.

All the comments received during the comment period will be incorporated into the official record for the project. In addition, the project team will take these comments into consideration as they move forward in the development of this important coastal restoration project.

