



### Commander's note

Recently, I attended my last Mississippi River Commission inspection public meeting as commander of the New Orleans District. During my command here in South Louisiana, I have come to realize how important these opportunities are to the success of the district and to the Mississippi Valley Division. Through these interactions with the residents we serve, the Corps is able to learn and understand their needs and concerns.

I believe that this interaction can also assist the local officials in their efforts to serve their communities. For example, during a series of meetings in the Atchafalaya Basin area, I was able to speak with many regarding the potential of an extremely high-water season. Because of these discussions, my team developed a tool to assist these officials in their emergency preparedness efforts.

The result was a collection of Atchafalaya Basin elevation maps that would have assisted their abilities if a flood fight were necessary. Thankfully, it appears that the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers will stay within their

levees this year.

These tools are only one example of what can be accomplished by maintaining open channels of communication between the Corps and its stakeholders, its partners and the residents. Together, we can continue to work toward accomplishing what is certainly the number one priority for all of us: Public Safety

**Together, we will continue building strong,**

**Col. Al Lee**



### CWPPRA celebrates 20 years

In recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, the CWPPRA Task Force, the Louisiana's Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration, and the parishes of Southeastern Louisiana hosted a ceremony at the Woodland Plantation in Plaquemines Parish on April 8 to highlight restoration projects in Southeastern Louisiana.

For twenty years, the CWPPRA program, commonly known as the Breaux Act, has been dedicated to the construction of small-scale coastal and ecosystem restoration projects throughout coastal Louisiana. Currently, the program has 144 active projects in various phases, including planning, engineering and design, construction, and operations and maintenance, which are and will protect and/or

restore 110,415 net acres of coastal wetlands.

CWPPRA has been implementing and maintaining a variety of coastal restoration projects, including freshwater diversions, sediments pipelines, marsh planting and foreshore protection for twenty years. These projects, and the knowledge they provide, are extremely important in protecting an ecosystem and a way of life that is uniquely Louisiana.

Twelve projects were highlighted during the ceremony, including the Bayou LaBranche Wetland Creation project and the Lake Borgne and MRGO Shoreline Protection project, both sponsored by the Corps of Engineers.

A 20th anniversary ceremony for Southwest Louisiana CWPPRA projects will also be held this fall. More details to come...



**Bayou LaBranche Wetland Creation**



**Lake Borgne and MRGO Shoreline Protection**

### Public meeting calendar

**Tuesday, Apr. 27, 2010**

Western Tie-In construction impacts  
Cytec's Tom Call Pavilion  
10800 River Road,  
Waggaman, LA  
Open House 6:00 p.m.  
Presentation 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Apr. 29, 2010**

LCA Convent/Blind River NF  
St. James Parish Courthouse  
5800 LA 44  
Convent, LA 70723  
Open house 6:00 p.m.  
Presentation 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 13, 2010**

WBV Mitigation IER - Algiers  
Delgado Community College  
Westbank Campus  
2600 General Meyer Ave.  
Rm 130 Auditorium,  
New Orleans, LA 70114  
Presentation 6 p.m.  
Open house/discussion 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Monday, May 17, 2010**

WBV Mitigation IER - Westwego  
Westwego Ernest Tassin  
Senior Center  
701 4th St.  
Westwego, LA 70094  
Presentation 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Open house/discussion 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.



## MRC conducts annual high-water inspection

On April 16, the Mississippi River Commission concluded its 2010 high water inspection trip in Baton Rouge with a public meeting aboard the M/V MISSISSIPPI. This meeting was one of four scheduled during the inspection to give commission members and Mississippi Valley Division leadership the opportunity to meet with local residents and hear their concerns, ideas and issues.

The dynamic nature of the Mississippi River and its tributaries require constant project vigilance, inspection and review. Throughout the year, the MRC conducts reviews and inspections of the Mississippi River and Tributaries system. During these inspections, they review the adequacy of the project flood designs, validate the levee inspection processes and flood response plans, and review major regional projects with the drainage basin that may impact the MR&T project. Additional-

ly, the MRC frequently inspects structures and improvements on other inland waterways such as the Ohio, Missouri, Arkansas, and Red Rivers to share lessons learned while gaining a broader perspective.

Through the public meetings held during these inspections, the MRC can further serve as a springboard for local, regional and national collaboration to confront the challenges within the entire Mississippi River watershed. The public feedback and concerns gathered during the public hearing process is then reported by the commission to members of Congress, the Department of Commerce, Chief of Engineers, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and the Administration.



## Atchafalaya Basin levee maps assist with high water planning

To aid in advance planning for public safety, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released draft Atchafalaya Basin levee elevation maps in an early April stakeholder meeting in Morgan City.

The maps were to be used as planning tools for emergency managers during the 2010 high water season.

Fortunately, despite the persistent reports anticipating a historical high water season this

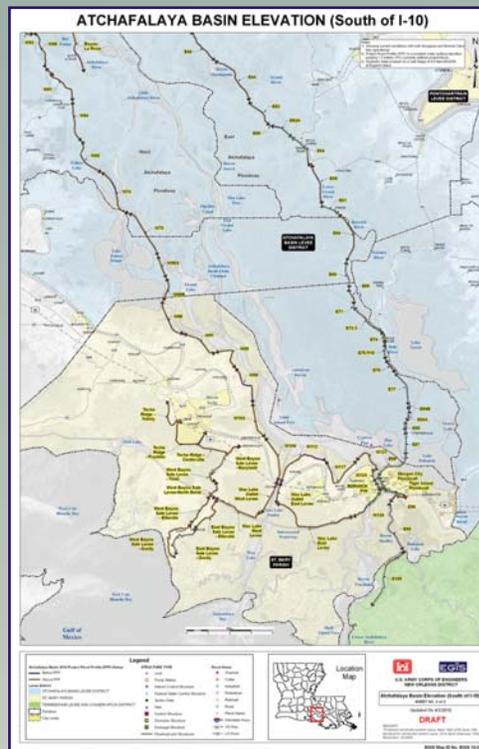
year, the Atchafalaya River peaked at 5.45 feet April 13, well below moderate flood stage.

However, the maps fulfilled a critical need in flood fight plans. If the river had reached record high levels and the project flood profile, these maps highlight the areas that would have required flood fighting based on elevation.

The Atchafalaya Basin levee maps were created using current conditions and they assume the

Atchafalaya River is passing the project design flood flow of 1.5 million cubic feet per second (the project flood profile). In this situation, both the Bonnet Carré and Morganza structures would be open. These maps also assume a Gulf of Mexico stage of 4.8 feet. (The mean sea level in the Gulf of Mexico near the mouth of the Lower Atchafalaya River is between 0 and 2 feet.)

*Left: A sample overview map released early April to assist emergency managers in flood fight preparedness this year.*



## Public meeting calendar (continued)

### Tuesday, May 18, 2010

MRGO Ecosystem Restoration  
CF Rowley Alternative School  
49 Madison Ave.  
Chalmette, LA 70043  
Open House 6:00 p.m.  
Presentation 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 19, 2010

LPV Mitigation IER - St. Bernard  
NP Trist Middle School  
1 Pirates Cove  
Meraux, LA 70075-2646  
Presentation 6 p.m.  
Open house/discussion 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### Monday, May 24, 2010

LPV Mitigation IER - New Orleans East, Resurrection of Our Lord Elementary School  
4861 Rosalia Dr.  
New Orleans, LA 70127-3598  
Presentation 6 p.m.  
Open house/discussion 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 26, 2010

LPV Mitigation IER - St. Charles American Legion Post 366  
12188 River Rd.,  
St. Rose, LA 70087  
Presentation 6 p.m.  
Open house/discussion 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.