



Commander's note

As you will read in this update, the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Task Force has voted to close the West Bay Diversion project. The diversion of water and sediment into West Bay over the last six years has not resulted in marsh creation. This lack of marsh can be attributed to many factors, such as the depth of water in the receiving bay, tidal storm surge, subsidence, incoming sediment grain size, or water velocities entering the area from the river.

During the life of this project, CWPPRA has created approximately 553 acres of fresh to intermediate marsh by beneficially using the dredged material of the Pilottown anchorage area in the river since 2003. Unfortunately, the dredging costs associated with these efforts have increased substantially more than originally projected.

Closing the West Bay sediment diversion will not impact future implementation of other proposed diversions along the Mis-

issippi River. Instead, the lessons learned from this project will greatly contribute to these efforts. The Corps has been conducting a comprehensive data collection and modeling effort as part of the West Bay Diversion project so that we can obtain a better understanding of the river's water and sediment flow dynamics. Our analysis should be complete before closure of the project in 2010.

As a learning organization, the CWPPRA Task Force is applying adaptive management. In the easiest terms, adaptive management is "learning by doing." Through this approach, we are systematically testing assumptions, adapting to new or different information and documenting the information and processes to share with others. We are making decisions based on science and the performance that's occurring on the ground, to assure the resources, in this case the river, are being used to their highest priority.

The West Bay Diversion Project is one such project.

The information that the scientific and engineering communities have gained from the project will help us make more informed decisions about the future of diversion projects in coastal Louisiana. Furthermore, this information will help us best manage the many resources the Mississippi River to meet the needs of the multiple uses including navigation, flood damage risk reduction, water supply and coastal restoration.

Congratulations Saints!

Happy Mardi Gras,

Col. Al Lee



West Bay Sediment Diversion to close

Wednesday, January 20, 2010, the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Task Force met at the New Orleans District to approve construction of coastal restoration projects and to discuss the future of the West Bay Diversion. The task force approved construction of five projects, totaling over \$103 million, which

are spread across seven coastal parishes including Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. Charles, Lafourche, Terrebonne, Vermilion and Cameron.

The task force also voted unanimously to close the West Bay Diversion, located in lower Plaquemines Parish, during the low water period of 2010. The task force approved continuing the

project's 12-month work plan to gather valuable information that can be used in future planning of other Mississippi River diversions. The decision to close the diversion was based on the fact that long term costs to maintain and dredge anchorage areas near the diversion outweigh the benefits of the diversion.



These aerial photographs were taken of the West Bay Diversion project area in May 2008. Though the project is set to close later this year, the lessons learned will assist in planning future coastal efforts.





President's Fiscal 2011 Budget includes \$35 million for Louisiana Coastal Area Program

Funding to focus on Beneficial Use of Dredged Material program

The President's Fiscal 2011 Budget released this week includes \$35 million for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District's Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) program, which has been highlighted as a high priority project.

A budget amount of \$19 million will be applied to projects which have completed the necessary requirements and are approved for construction. Implementation of the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program will be one source of projects and the identification of Demonstration Projects will be another project source.

Approximately \$16.5 million of the budget for LCA will be used to continue efforts for feasibility studies and initiate engineering and design for six projects. Another \$6.5 million of the funds will support the Science and Technology program, contingent upon execution of a cost-share agreement with the Corps' partner, the state of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. Construction of any LCA restoration project is contingent upon the execution of cost-share agreements with the state of Louisiana.

The president's budget includes \$4.939 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' civil works program with a focus on navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, water and wetlands protection, and natural disaster emergency preparedness. The FY11 civil works budget funds the administration's priorities to improve the nation's infrastructure and revitalize the economy.

Overall, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers restores, creates, enhances or preserves approximately 49,000 acres of wetlands annually.



Upcoming public meetings

Effectively communicating our efforts is a key component of the Corps mission. Last year, we held more than 50 meetings to inform our stakeholders and partners of all the important projects we are working on throughout the state. So far in 2010, we have already held eight public meetings and have 15 more scheduled. Below is a list of our upcoming meetings in February and March 2010.

Monday, Feb. 22, 2010

Violet Freshwater Diversion
Neighborhood meeting
W. Smith Elementary School
6701 E. St. Bernard Hwy
Violet, LA 70092
Open House 6 to 6:30 p.m.
Presentation 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010

Coastal Restoration Town Hall
Lake Charles Civic Association
900 Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Open House 6 to 6:30 p.m.
Presentation 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010

Coastal Restoration Town Hall
AARP building
4014 Chennault St.
Morgan City, LA 70380
Open House 6 to 6:30 p.m.
Presentation 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010

Coastal Restoration Town Hall
Jefferson Parish West Bank
Council Chambers
200 Derbigny St.
Gretna, LA 70053
Open House 6 to 6:30 p.m.
Presentation 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010

Ames, Mt. Kennedy and
Harvey to Westwego levee
Visitation of Our Lady School
3520 Ames Blvd.
Marrero, LA 70072
Open House 6 to 6:30 p.m.
Presentation 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 10, 2010

GIWW West Closure Complex
English Turn Clubhouse
1 Clubhouse Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70131
Open house is from 6 to 6:30
Presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.

