



US Army Corps of Engineers

Team New Orleans

Stakeholder Update

BUILDING STRONG®

December 8, 2009

Commander's note

For many of us, as 2009 comes to an end, our focus turns to the incoming year. One of the most important challenges we will face in 2010 (and for many years in the future) is stemming coastal and wetland loss in South Louisiana. These resources are vital to the health of our nation's economy, ecology, and overall quality of life.

As we look to finding possible solutions, we must strive to build a shared vision

of coastal restoration with all of our partners. With a coherent strategy and focused effort by all of the local, state, and federal authorities, we will accomplish more than each acting alone. Collaboration will result in pioneering and comprehensive solutions.

Fortunately, there has never been a better time for seizing the moment and synchronizing our efforts for coastal restoration. Fully engaging our partners is key to

restoring America's wetlands.

I would like to wish each of you a very happy and safe holiday season. I look forward to 2010 and more opportunities to continue to move from good to great while building a stronger and sustainable Louisiana.

**Merry Christmas,
Col. Al Lee**

20,000 cubic feet per second

Massive pump station required to remove storm water from the Harvey and Algiers canals

The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West Closure Complex project requires a 20,000 cubic feet per second pump station to effectively remove storm water from the Harvey and Algiers canals. To improve the flow of this water to the intake area of the pumps, the Corps will be dredging several miles of the Algiers Canal. As part of the NEPA process, the Corps received the clearance it needs to use this dredged material beneficially. The dredged material will be

placed in Jean Lafitte National Park on the West Bank to help stabilize a narrow land bridge that separates Lake Salvador from Bayou Segnette. The Corps, in partnership with the National Park Service, hopes to re-establish the bank of Lake Salvador and prevent the lake from breaking through to Bayou Segnette. This project is a great example of the Corps' commitment to the beneficial use of dredged material.



Risk-informed decision making

LACPR assists by providing a means for engaging leaders and stakeholders

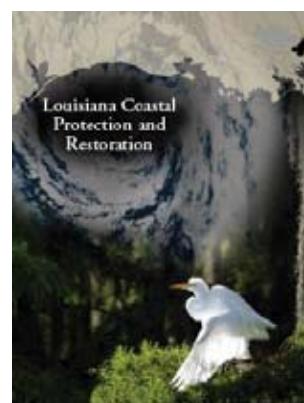
After the 2005 hurricane season, the worst in the nation's history, The U.S. Congress directed the Secretary of the Army to:

- Conduct a comprehensive hurricane risk reduction design and analysis in close coordination with the state of Louisiana;
- Develop a full range of hurricane risk reduction measures for South Louisiana, including coastal restoration;
- Consider risk reduction for surges equivalent to category 5 hurricanes.

As the nation's water resource planning and development experts, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) led the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) planning and technical effort. This effort is the result of collaboration by more than 60 organizations including the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana, other state and federal agencies, non-Corps scientists and academics, nongovernmental organizations,

the Dutch Rijkswaterstaat, Dutch Water Partnership, private engineering firms (U.S. and Netherlands), and stakeholders.

In May 2007, the state of Louisiana officially adopted the State Master Plan which provides the state's



conceptual framework of a sustainable coast and is the overarching vision for LACPR. The LACPR Final Technical Report complements the State Master Plan by presenting detailed technical evaluation of those components within the Corps' mission.

Both the LACPR report and the State Master Plan recommend a multiple

lines of defense strategy. The public has sent a clear message that a levees alone approach is not enough. No single measure or approach for achieving risk reduction will meet the needs of coastal Louisiana. A multiple lines of defense strategy requires a combination of coastal restoration features, nonstructural measures, and structural components. Features could include Mississippi River diversions, marsh creation, evacuation, elevating structures, building levees and floodgates.

Even if consensus has been reached on a multiple lines of defense strategy, not everyone agrees on the specific components of the plan or the highest priority projects. The LACPR report provides a means of engaging leaders and stakeholders in a process of risk-informed decision making. The state and federal government must now balance the need for urgent action with a full understanding of the trade-offs and impacts of plans that will reshape South Louisiana.



MRGO Ecosystem Restoration Plan Feasibility Study

More than 300 potential projects evaluated

The New Orleans District is developing an ecosystem restoration plan for the areas affected by the MRGO navigation channel. Continuing a collaborative planning approach, the district is working with stakeholders to evaluate and recommend coastal restoration measures. To date more than 300 pos-

sible projects have been evaluated in developing the plan. Potential plan features may include marsh creation, shoreline protection, barrier island restoration, ridge rebuilding, oyster reef creation and Mississippi River freshwater diversions. A draft plan is scheduled to undergo technical review in early 2010 and be released

for public comment in 2010. Development of the plan is authorized under Section 7013 of WRDA 2007 and is being prepared at 100 percent federal expense. Upon completion, the plan will be submitted by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (CW) to the Congress.



Nearly 25,000 acres built since 1988

Beneficial use of dredged material over the last twenty years

The Corps tracks beneficial use acreage with photography that is taken at the end of each calendar year. In the 20 years leading up to 2008, the Corps has created the following beneficial acreage:

1) Mississippi River: 11,950 acres (includes Southwest Pass, South Pass, & Outlets at Venice)

2) Atchafalaya River: 8,300 acres (includes Atchafalaya River & Bayou Chene)

3) Calcasieu River & Pass: 1,670 acres

4) Barataria Bay & Bayou Rigaud: 676 acres

5) Mermentau River: 253 acres

6) Bayou LaFourche: 137 acres

7) Houma Navigation Canal: 102 acres

8) MRGO (prior to de-authorization): 1,865 acres

Beneficial use of dredged material is 100 percent federally funded in most all parishes except Calcasieu Parish. In Calcasieu, we are partnering with the state of Louisiana and Calcasieu Parish through the local sponsor, Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District, to build 557 acres of marsh at Black Lake and the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, projects in Barataria, Houma, and MRGO are more than 90 percent federally funded.

