

**NOTICE OF MEETING
CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE**

NOTE: *One or more members of the City of South Padre Island City Council may attend this meeting; if so, this statement satisfies the requirements of the OPEN MEETINGS ACT.*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE SHORELINE TASK FORCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS, WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON:

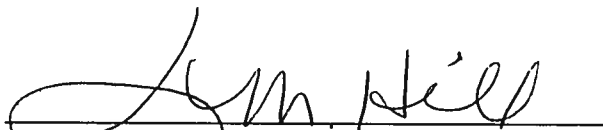
MONDAY, Nov. 9, 2015
3:00 P.M. AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2ND FLOOR
4601 PADRE BLVD, SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Public Comments and Announcements:** *This is an opportunity for citizens to speak to Task Force relating to agenda or non-agenda items. Speakers are required to address the Task Force at the podium and give their name before addressing their concerns. [Note: State law will not permit the Shoreline Task Force to discuss debate or consider items that are not on the agenda. Citizen Comments may be referred to City Staff or may be placed on the agenda of a future Shoreline Task Force meeting]*
4. Approval of minutes of the Oct. 12, 2015 regular meeting.
5. Discussion & action regarding the unexcused absences of Members Charlie Brommer and Rob Nixon from the Oct. 12, 2015 meeting. (Munarriz)
6. Update & discussion on beach access improvements. (Trevino)
7. Update & discussion on the 2015 Beneficial Use of Dredge Material (BUDM) project. (Trevino)
8. Update and discussion on the Coastal Resources Grant Projects. (Trevino)
9. Discussion & update regarding the ASBPA New Orleans Conference. (Nixon)
10. Update and discussion regarding the ASBPA New Orleans written report. (Trevino)
11. Presentation given at both the ASBPA New Orleans Conference and the ASBPA's 1st Dune Challenges on Developed Coastlines Workshop entitled "South Padre Island's Efforts of Balancing Natural Functioning Landforms and Tourism". (Trevino)
12. Update and discussion regarding the ASBPA's 1st Dune Challenges on Developed Coastlines Workshop. (Trevino)
13. Update, discussion and possible action regarding The Pearl walkover project and public easement encroachment with the property's trash compactor. (Nixon)
14. Discussion & possible action on damage to dunes after recent tide surges and plans for future necessary restoration efforts. (Giles)
15. Update, discussion and possible action regarding:
 - A. Potential funding options for the approved bay access project at Corral Street. (Metty)
 - B. Purchase of land for bay access project at Corral Street. (Giles)

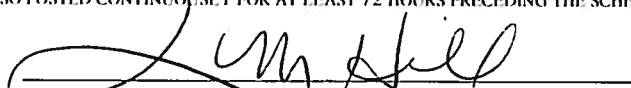
16. Discussion and action to recommend to the City Council approval to attend and necessary budget amendment regarding Reuben Trevino's attendance and panel participation at the 2016 NCER (National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration) in Coral Gables, Florida on April 18-22, 2016. (Munarriz)
17. Discussion & possible action regarding November 23, 2015 regular meeting. (Trevino)
18. Adjournment

DATED THIS THE 5TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2015




Susan Hill, City Secretary

I, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE SHORELINE TASK FORCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF SAID NOTICE AND THAT I POSTED A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF SAID NOTICE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AT CITY HALL/MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON NOV. 5, 2015 AT/OR BEFORE 3:00 P.M. AND REMAINED SO POSTED CONTINUOUSLY FOR AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRECEDING THE SCHEDULED TIME OF SAID MEETING.


Susan Hill, City Secretary

THIS FACILITY IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE, AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES ARE AVAILABLE. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS OR INTERPRETIVE SERVICES MUST BE MADE 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THIS MEETING. PLEASE CONTACT BUILDING OFFICIAL, JAY MITCHIM; ADA DESIGNATED RESPONSIBLE PARTY AT (956) 761-1025.

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Approval of minutes of the Oct. 12, 2015 regular meeting.

ITEM BACKGROUND

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____
Approved by Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____

Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

**MINUTES
CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE COMMITTEE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER.

The Shoreline Task Force Committee of the City of South Padre Island, Texas held a regular meeting on Monday, October 12, 2015, at the Municipal Complex Building, 2nd Floor, and 4601 Padre Boulevard, South Padre Island Texas. Chairman Munarriz called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present: Chairman Paul Munarriz, Members Troy Giles, Neil Rasmussen, Theresa Metty, Virginia Guillot all present. Members with unexcused absence were Rob Nixon and Charlie Brommer.

City staff member present was City Manager, Bill DiLibero, Mary K. Hancock, Coastal Resources

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public announcements and comments:

Public comments and announcements were given at this time.

IV. Approval of minutes for Oct. 12, 2015

A motion was made to accept as written by Theresa Metty, second by Virginia Guillot. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Update, discussion and possible action regarding:

A. Potential funding options for the approved bay access project at Corral Street. (Metty)

A motion made by Neil, second by Theresa appoint Troy to approach Sandcastle HOA regarding their interest in selling the street end. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Purchase of land for bay access project at Corral Street. (Giles)

No action taken on this item.

VI. Update, discussion and possible action regarding The Pearl walkover project and public easement encroachment with the property's trash compactor. (Nixon)

Motion to table this item by Neil, second by Virginia. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Discussion and action to recommend to the City Council approval to attend and necessary budget amendment regarding Reuben Trevino's attendance and panel participation at the 2016 NCER (National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration) in Coral Gables, Florida on April 18-22, 2016.

Motion by Theresa, second by Troy to have Reuben submit a written report at the next meeting which includes approximate costs to attend NCER Conference and the benefit to the City. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Discussion & possible action to schedule 'Back Yard Party' (Giles)

No action taken on this item

XV. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Munarriz, at 3:37pm

Paul Munarriz, Chairman

Mary K. Hancock, Coastal Resources

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Discussion & action regarding the unexcused absences of Members Charlie Brommer and Rob Nixon from the Oct. 12, 2015 meeting. (Munarriz)

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**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Update & discussion on Beach access improvements. (Trevino)

ITEM BACKGROUND

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**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov.9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Update & discussion on the 2015 Beneficial Use of Dredge Material (BUDM) project. (Trevino)

ITEM BACKGROUND

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**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Update and discussion on the Coastal Resources Grant Projects. (Trevino)

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Coastal Resources Grant History

Grant/Organization	Amount Received:	Match amount:
Beach Renourishment CIAP '11-'12/ GLO	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 450,000
Beach Renourishment CIAP '12-'13/ GLO	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 300,000
Beach Renourishment CIAP '13-'14' GLO	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 275,000
Beach Renourishment CEPRA Cycle 7/ GLO	\$ 1,950,000	\$ 487,500
Beach Renourishment CEPRA Cycle 8/ GLO	\$ 2,100,000	\$ 700,000
Aquarius & Good Hope Circle CMP Cycle 16/ GLO	\$ 178,000	\$ 44,500
Dune Volunteer Program CMP Cycle 17/GLO	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000
Gulf Glvd Phase 2 CMP Cycle 18/GLO	\$ 150,000	\$ 172,000
Beach Cir. Emg Veh Access CMP Cycle 18/ GLO	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
Gulf Glvd Phase 3 CMP Cycle 19/GLO	\$ 150,000	\$ 172,000
Dune Vol Program CMP Cycle 19/GLO	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000
Pearl Walkover CMP Cycle 19/GLO	\$ 150,000	\$ 173,000
Seaside CMP Cycle 19/GLO	\$ 55,000	\$ 173,000
Ocean Beach Access CMP Cycle 20/GLO	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
Moonlight Beach Access CMP Cycle 20/ GLO	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000
	\$ 9,408,000	\$ 3,590,000

City of South Padre Island

Coastal Resources Grants



Department	Year	Grant/Organization	Received	Match	Status
Coastal Resources	Fall 2015	Beach Renourishment CEPRA Cycle 8/GLO	\$2.1 Million	\$700,000	Construction
Coastal Resources	On-Going	Beach Circle Emg.Vehicle Access CMP Cycle 18/GLO	\$150,000	\$150,000	Completed
Coastal Resources	Fall 2014	Gulf Blvd. Phase 3 CMP Cycle 19/GLO	\$150,000	\$172,000	Construction
Coastal Resources	2014-15	Dune Vol. Program CMP Cycle 19/GLO	\$90,000	In-Kind	On-Going
Coastal Resources	Fall 2014	Pearl Walkover CMP Cycle 19/GLO	\$150,000	\$173,000	Near Construction
Coastal Resources	Fall 2015	Seaside CMP Cycle 19/GLO	\$55,000	\$173,000	Design
Coastal Resources	Fall 2015	Ocean Beach Access CMP Cycle 20/GLO	\$150,000	\$150,000	On-Hold
Coastal Resources	Fall 2015	Moonlight Beach Access CMP Cycle 20/GLO	\$95,000	\$95,000	On-Hold

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Discussion & update regarding the ASBPA New Orleans Conference. (Nixon)

ITEM BACKGROUND

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Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Update and discussion regarding the ASBPA New Orleans written report. (Trevino)

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South Padre Island, TX Findings Report

Citizens and civic leaders from South Padre Island recently participated in the eighth of a series of leadership forums convened by the America's WETLAND Foundation. The "BLUE RIBBON RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: Envisioning the Future of the Gulf Coast Leadership Forum" was convened March 8, 2012, at the Pearl Resort on South Padre Island, TX. The purpose of the forums across the Gulf Coast is to adapt to vulnerabilities that coastal communities face and work toward cooperative measures for building community resiliency for a prosperous future.

THE RESULTS

What does the community value?

- ★ The environment, landscape and other enjoyments of coastal living are treasured by island residents.
- ★ There is great appreciation for tourists and the economic benefit they generate.
- ★ A diverse population and a strong Mexican culture bring added lifestyle benefits.
- ★ Resilience and self-reliance of the local people make for a strong community.

Aligning with what we value, how do we prioritize solutions?

- ★ Develop a long-term vision to guide the community in a planning process that can be implemented to ensure community resiliency in the future.
- ★ Join a campaign to educate all Texans about risks coastal communities face from more frequent and more powerful storms and how the degradation of coastal assets puts inland coastal reaches at risk and harms the entire state's economic and environmental health. This would help to develop the political will needed to make significant investments in coastal areas.
- ★ Develop a public outreach campaign or a forum for discussion that increases awareness of the tie between environmental assets and thriving, sustainable economies.
- ★ Develop "Smart Growth" strategies for the northern end of the island that include setbacks, vegetated dunes and elevated structures that would allow for managed growth, but not put the population at risk.
- ★ Inform the public of the value of beach renourishment and develop creative beach-cleaning methods that preserve natural seaweed and other vegetation.
- ★ Retrofit existing buildings to improve resilience. Creative funding opportunities like a bond measures may offset costs.
- ★ Consider investment in alternate energy, such as wind, and create water projects such as desalination.

Where do we start?

- ★ Partner with Cameron County and the state to establish a local long-term dedicated shoreline management fund that includes the re-direction or enhancement of existing revenue streams to create the financial capacity to respond to beach erosion.
- ★ Develop a stable local financial capacity to act as a cornerstone for state and federal participation. Beach visitors, users and owners must contribute to restoration. Consider Ad Valorem property taxes, redirection of hotel occupancy taxes, capturing a portion of sales tax, and/or increasing the beach nourishment tax.
- ★ Cut red tape preventing distribution of Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funds for projects in coastal states.
- ★ Provide incentives for private landowners to restore their land in accordance with approved state and federal plans, through mechanisms such as private landowner mitigation credits. Review and address, as necessary, related policies to ensure that private restoration efforts are not penalized.
- ★ Develop a general emergency rule or other mechanisms so that permits or other requirements for restoration projects that are part of or consistent with approved plans can be fast-tracked, preventing further environmental degradation caused by unnecessary, lengthy delays and potential cost overruns.
- ★ Immediately utilize monies held in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) as prescribed by Congress for beneficial use of dredge material in the Gulf Coast region and in particular to sustain the Federal navigation system. Billions of dollars in the Fund go unspent annually while the need is critical. Using dredge materials will build land and reduce waterway widening occurring as a result of deteriorating banks that are not currently maintained. These funds should be prioritized for uses based on need and in coordination with approved restoration plans.
- ★ Stiffen the penalties and enforcement of environmental regulations to deter littering and enforce vegetated dunes.

We encourage the public to review and comment on these findings from the forum. Tell us how you would sustain South Padre Island by sharing your comments online. You can also mail your comments to: America's WETLAND Foundation, 365 Canal Place, Ste 1475, New Orleans, LA 70130. You can also call us at (504) 293-2810.



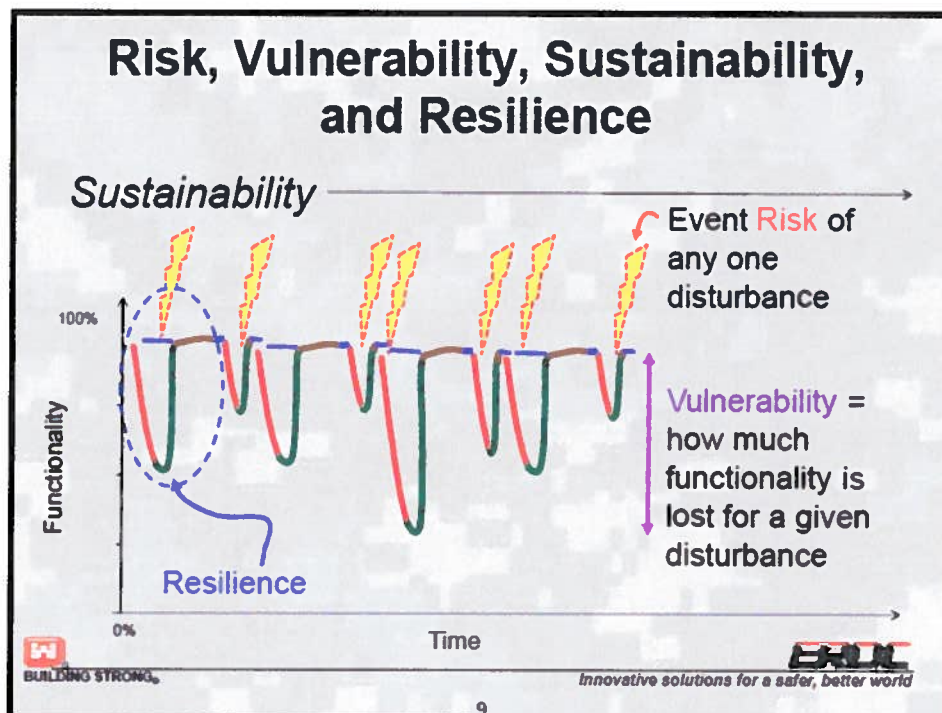
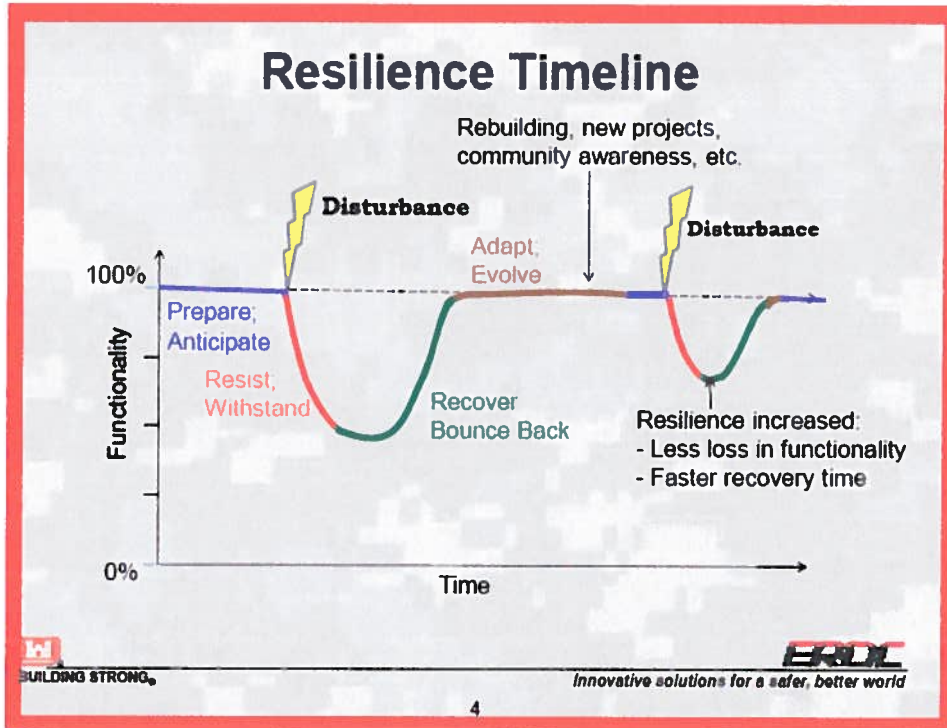
www.americaswetland.com



Short Course:

Concepts of Resilience for Coastal Systems:

- Understand and be able to explain the distinction between resilience, risk, vulnerability, & sustainability.



- Be familiar with some tools and resources available to further resilience discussions
 - Assessments: Bottom-Up vs. Top-Down
 - Bottom-Up
 - Community-Generated
 - Utilize local knowledge, expert elicitation, anecdotal information
 - Hazard specific
 - Ex
 - Coastal Resilience Index (Sea Grant)
 - <http://masgc.org/coastal-storms-program/resilience-index>
 - Maryland's CoastSmart Community Report Card
 - <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/coastsmart>
 - Communities Advancing Resilience Toolkit (CART)
 - Top-Down
 - Externally-Generated
 - Utilize regional and national data
 - Hazard-independent
 - Ex
 - Baseline Resilience Index for Communities (BRIC)
 - <http://webra.cas.sc.edu/hvri>
 - Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI®)
 - <http://webra.cas.sc.edu/hvri/products/sovi.aspx>
 - Resilience Capacity Index (RCI) for Metropolitan Areas
 - <http://brr.berkeley.edu/rci/data/ranking>
 - Data Sources
 - Coastal Resilience Tool – The Nature Conservancy
 - <http://coastalresilience.org/>
 - Sea Level Rise Viewer – NOAA
 - <http://coast.noaa.gov/slr/>
 - Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI) – USGS
 - <http://woodshole.er.usgs.gov/project-pages/cvi/images/largenat.jpg>
 - State of the Coast - NOAA
 - <http://stateofthecoast.noaa.gov/vulnerability/welcome.html>

Presentations Attended:

Systems Approach to Geomorphic Engineering (SAGE): Integrating grey and green solutions for coastal resiliency.

<http://sagecoast.org/>

The Systems Approach to Geomorphic Engineering (SAGE) is a community of practice that facilitates the development and application of nature and nature-based approaches to develop and apply innovative techniques and holistic solutions. SAGE promotes the use of both green (natural and nature-based) and gray (hard, structural engineering) approaches to make coasts more resilient. The systems approach addresses large areas of shoreline to foster thriving communities and flourishing natural ecosystems. The focus of SAGE is to provide science, policy, regional demonstrations and management resources regarding coastal resiliency. The community of practice will help to: share what we know about utilizing natural systems to protect against coastal hazards; identify what more we need to learn about greener techniques; and promote innovative, hybrid approaches that combine green with gray solutions. Ultimately, the objective is to offer an economical option to sustain a healthy environment and create a resilient shoreline.

Why Does the Definition of Resilient Coasts and Living Shorelines Vary Regionally?

Coastal Resiliency is the latest buzzword in coastal engineering. Coastal resiliency can be increased by constructing beach nourishment and living shoreline projects. This was made clear after Super Storm sandy, because it was apparent to all coastal practitioners that where shoreline resiliency had been increased through living shoreline and/or beach nourishment projects the shorelines suffered less damage and recovered more quickly. Additionally, the upland infrastructure located landward of these shorelines suffered less damage. When these facts are presented to governments, permit agencies, coastal engineers, and residents, they almost always say that these projects that increased resiliency reduced damage and that increasing coastal resiliency along our coasts should be priority. Living shoreline projects are an important tool in the coastal resiliency toolbox. These projects have an important role in building and/or enhancing coastal resiliency.

Preparing for Change: Building Resilience Communities using Interactive Tools

<http://maps.coastalresilience.org/gulfmex/>

The Nature Conservancy's Coastal Resilience approach and web-based mapping portal for the Gulf of Mexico. Coastal Resilience helps communities evaluate the ecological and socio-economic risks associated with climate change and identify nature-based adaptation solutions. The decision support tool contains a suite of interactive applications (apps) that are developed in coordination with a host of academic, government, and non-profit partners to support decisions to reduce the risks of coastal and flood hazards. These apps are customized for various geographies from local to global scales to address specific coastal issues, such as risk from combined inundation & storm surge, potential future habitat migration, and the protective services provided by coastal habitats.

A Beach Management Clearinghouse: Development of the Beach and Coastal Management Portal

The vision for the Beach and Coastal Management Portal is to become the primary document and publication resource for public beach and coastal area managers and professionals. It will serve as the premiere information access point for data, documents, best practices and news pertaining to beach management around the world. The Portal will serve as the clearinghouse for beach and coastal management resources and will give managers daily access to information they need and want.

Coastal Resiliency Planning - Protecting Critical Infrastructure along the Texas Coast

The Texas General Land Office is currently conducting a coastal resiliency plan for the State of Texas, covering 25 primarily coastal counties. The study includes identification of infrastructure at risk due to storms such as Hurricanes Ike and Dolly. The storms combined caused more than \$30 billion in damage to infrastructure, housing, and ecological structures plus \$142 billion in economic damage. The coastal resiliency plan will use lessons learned from these storms to identify ways to improve resiliency along the Texas coast.

The initial phase of the Texas Coastal Resiliency Study included a comprehensive search to locate existing information related to the resiliency of the Texas coast. The information compiled included storm mitigation plans, floodplain and wetland management tools, feasibility studies, risk matrices and emergency response projects. In addition to reports, a project specific, web based GIS system has been developed that allows spatial viewing and analysis.

The second phase is currently underway and is approximately half way complete. In the study areas, the GIS database developed in Phase I is being used to identify vulnerable infrastructure, review previously identified infrastructure projects and recommend potential infrastructure

projects to improve overall coastal resiliency. Coordination with technical advisors consisting of local level staff and officials is being conducted to gain understanding of specific community needs and concerns. Finally, projects are being assessed relative to risk as a function of vulnerability and consequence with the overall objective being the development of a list of potential future infrastructure projects for when the next round of disaster funding becomes available.

Regional Sediment Management Perspectives toward a National Implementation Strategy with Local Examples

Dr. Richard Davis discussed RSM in the context of the geomorphology along the Texas coast, including natural and human-induced sediment removal from the littoral system. Dr. Nicole Elko briefed the audience on results from an analysis of U.S. Beach Placement of Dredged Coastal Navigation Sediments and discuss the challenges and opportunities of national RSM. Jackie Keiser discussed successful RSM implementation at the Jacksonville District and the budgetary advantages and logistic efficiencies that follow. Linda Lillycrop provided an overview of the national RSM program's past achievements and future direction.

The Missing Link in Shoreline Erosion Response: Regional Planning and Financial Capacity

Communities facing shoreline erosion and retreat rightly focus their attention on near-term projects designed to improve conditions as soon as practicable. Shoreline retreat is a chronic problem, however, and stretching the "planning" horizon is critical to long-term success. This presentation focused attention on two critical factors that can increase the chances of successful, long-term response strategies: Regional Sediment Management (RSM) and Stable, Predictable Financial Capacity to act.

The talk highlighted three operational components that can positively influence sediment management at a regional scale, including:

- (1) integration of an operational sediment budget,
- (2) development of a monitoring and adaptive management plan,
- (3) development of a regional sediment availability and allocation program, and
- (4) long-term financial strategies to support project implementation.

These components seek to incorporate science, adaptive management, and financial planning through implementation of an organized and well-documented decision making process. They represent a coordinated framework that could serve as a guide for unifying financial investments in regional sediment management plans.

Facing the Ever-Changing Coastal World: A Call for a Regional Perspective and Robust Financing

If we are to successfully adapt to our increasingly shifty shoreline world, we must “broaden our coastal perspective” beyond local and immediate project needs and develop a greater financial capacity to respond. Given the appeal of coastal living, it is not surprising that public and private sector actors continue to invest in highly dynamic coastal areas with the understandable aims of either promoting economic growth, responding to changing conditions, or seeking to improve the environment. In spite of our efforts and our substantial investments, it is hard to deny that our coastal communities today are more vulnerable than ever and many shoreline environments continue to be degraded. One cause, among many, is that when faced with either a challenge or an opportunity, our coastal perspective is often too narrow. We have yet to develop a broader, more integrated vision of the coastal world and how human expectations can be met, technically and financially. It is time for more long-term, more regional thinking and new approaches that extend beyond the near-term or the local. If we intend to occupy and use our coastal areas, we must think past paying for the next project and build a more stable, robust and predictable financial foundation to contend with this often-fluid landscape.

Blue Ribbon UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Adaptation for Gulf Coast Resiliency and Sustainability

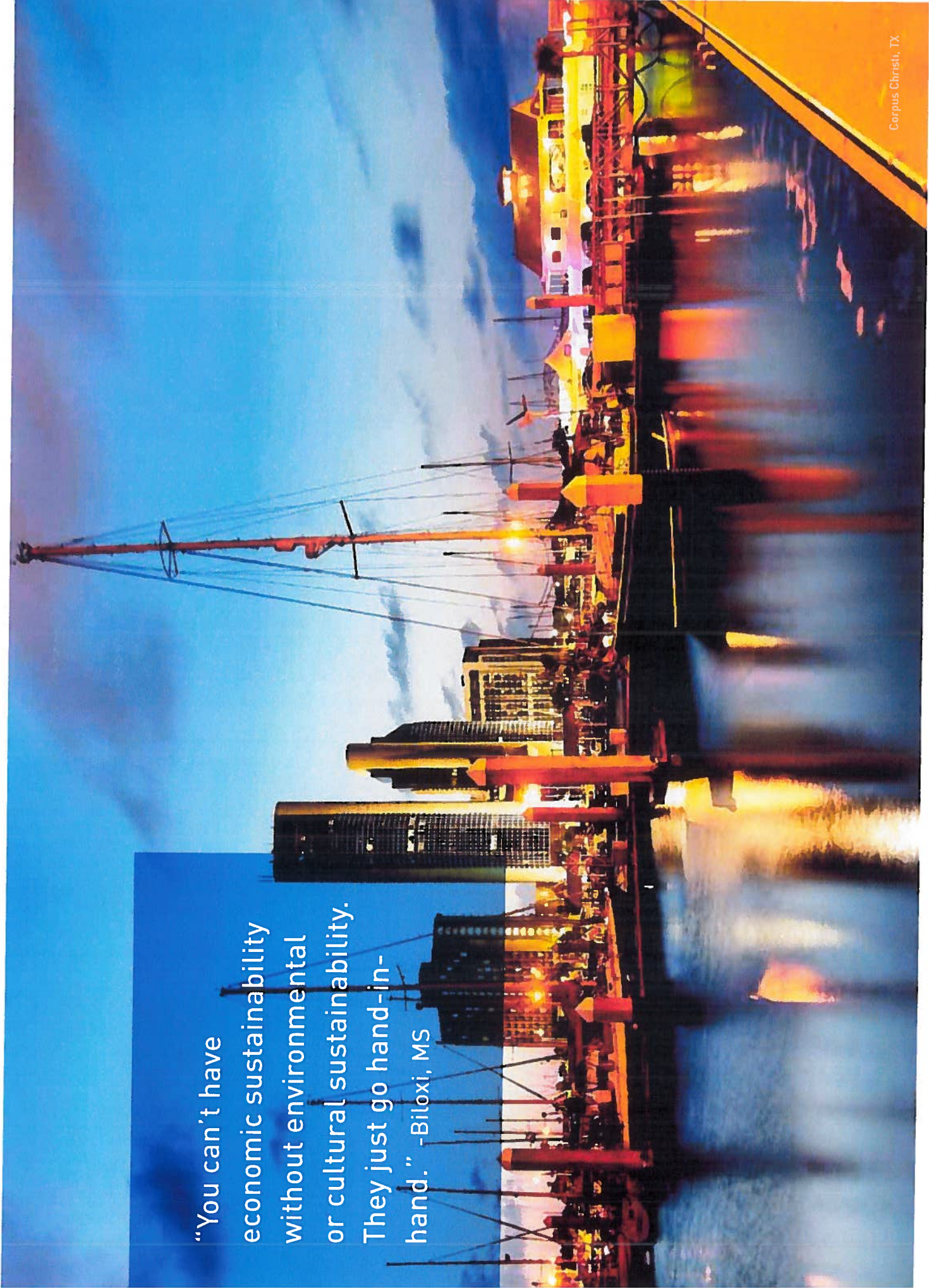


Blue Ribbon Resilient Communities:
Envisioning the Future of America's Energy Coast

Final Report & Recommendations



"You can't have
economic sustainability
without environmental
or cultural sustainability.
They just go hand-in-
hand." -Biloxi, MS



Facing the Constant Storm:

TOWARD A MORE RESILIENT GULF COAST

The Gulf Coast faces a constant storm. Man's efforts to tame the Mississippi River with flood control structures have led to many unintended consequences, primarily the degradation of the Mississippi River Delta. Throughout the Gulf Region, land loss caused by subsidence, sea-level rise, and the alteration of critical environmental processes has stripped the Gulf Coast of its natural defenses and is accelerating the collapse of coastal ecosystems.



even as awareness of the Gulf's importance grows, this recognition faces a policy and regulatory reality that responds to consequences but does not work to achieve real sustainability. Comprehensive solutions must be implemented or the region's irreplaceable resources will be lost in a matter of decades. Katrina, Rita, Wilma, Ike, Gustav, Isaac: the next big storm is always here.

There is a movement afoot, however, to face reality and adapt to change. This empowerment comes in the form of community efforts, comprehensive state plans for coastal restoration and protection, public/private partnerships, and self-taxation to provide emergency funding for projects that cannot abide an onerous and expensive federal process.

Consider the unfortunate example of Louisiana, where the costly practice of waiting for disaster to strike has exacted an astronomical post-Katrina toll — just to bring coastal communities back to pre-storm conditions. The \$140 billion in estimated recovery costs makes earlier projections of \$14 billion for coastal restoration seem like a bargain today. To protect national, state and local assets now, a minimum of \$50 billion is required to save the coast in Louisiana alone. The price tag may seem high, but will we again make a tragic miscalculation and wait until the damage is done?

This report reflects a combination of grassroots experience and scientific research. Eleven forums were held over 14 months across five states seeking answers to how a faltering coastal

landscape can be made more resilient in an age of mounting challenges. Some of the recommendations are common sense. Others will require a push from Washington to move past years of failed practices and outdated, conflicting federal processes that too often slow or stop real restoration.

Gulf Coast communities have welcomed self-inspection, criticism and the resolution of historical differences because they must. This has not been a perfect process, but it has been effective, and it demands action.

Blue Ribbon Resilient Communities across the Gulf are working to stop merely reacting to unintended consequences. The goal is to anticipate, to prepare and, most of all, to adapt. Join us as we move swiftly to prevail against the constant storm.

R. King Milling

R. King Milling
Chairman of the Board
America's WETLAND Foundation





ENERGY

- 54% of U.S. crude oil production
- 52% of U.S. natural gas production
- 47% of U.S. crude refining capability
- \$15.6 billion in wages

● South Padre Island, TX



SHIPPING

- 2 of the world's largest ports & 6 of the 10 largest ports in the U.S. (by tonnage)
- 50% of all U.S. international trade tonnage
- 2/3 of all oil and gas imports
- 60% of all U.S. grain exports (2.5 billion bushels)



CULTURE & TOURISM

- \$20+ billion annually
- 15.2 million beachgoers
- \$2.2 billion spent on 23 million recreational fishing trips
- 600,000+ jobs
- Rich ethnic & indigenous communities
- Louisiana Purchase historic landscapes



SEAFOOD

- 1.4 billion lbs in annual commercial fishing landings
- 78% of U.S. Shrimp – 221 million lbs
- 62% of U.S. Oysters – 22 million lbs
- \$10.5 billion in sales & \$5.6 billion in income



ECOSYSTEMS

- 97% of Gulf of Mexico commercial seafood landings rely on estuaries and wetlands to survive
- 75% of North American migratory birds depend on estuarine habitats during migration
- 1 acre of wetlands can sequester significant amounts of carbon and store 1.5 million gallons of water, reducing the impact of flooding and storms
- Gulf Coast restoration could create 57,697 jobs over the next decade

WHAT'S AT STAKE:

Local Livelihoods & National Assets

The Gulf Coast is home to 21 million people, and is expected to grow by more than 15 percent over the next decade. The five Gulf States account for 17 percent of U.S. Gross Domestic Product. If considered a country, their combined GDP of more than \$2.4 trillion would rank as the 7th largest economy in the world.

Gulf Coast resiliency depends on a tightly woven fabric of economic, environmental and cultural health. From wetlands and coral reefs to barrier islands, cypress swamps and

hardwoods, the Gulf region derives its great wealth from its diverse ecology, which also protects its coastal communities and critical infrastructure. It is difficult to place a precise value on natural processes — the Mississippi River Delta's ecosystem services alone are estimated to be worth \$11-47 billion. But this much is certain: no one industry can survive if any part of the larger ecosystem fails.

● Blue Ribbon Resilient Community Forum locations

*References available at www.futureofthegulfcoast.org/beyond/references

Blue Ribbon Resilient Communities

MESSAGE FROM GULF COAST LEADERSHIP



Jay Dardenne

Jay Dardenne
Lt. Governor of Louisiana
Blue Ribbon Chair,
Louisiana State Chair



William W. Walker

William W. Walker, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Mississippi Department of
Marine Resources
Mississippi State Chair



Buddy Garcia

Buddy Garcia
Commissioner
Texas Railroad Commission
Texas State Chair



Vivian Davis Figures

Vivian Davis Figures
Alabama State Senator
Alabama State Co-Chair



Randy Davis

Randy Davis
Alabama State Representative
Alabama State Co-Chair

We are pleased that this cooperative initiative has positioned the Gulf Coast to adapt to change. Resiliency is often talked about these days, but meaningful action is scarce, and the country cannot afford to wait. The five Gulf States share a remarkable ecosystem, and four states — Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama — play a key role in national security as America's Energy Coast.

The Blue Ribbon Resilient Community Leadership Forums brought more than 1,100 leaders and community representatives face to face for a complicated dialogue. Participants put aside their allegiances and sought consensus on complex issues. Combined with a sense of urgency and a genuine spirit of compromise, their dedication produced essential recommendations for a more resilient future.

Please read through the pages of this report with an eye toward balancing competing interests for a sustainable Gulf Coast. We have concluded that a strong economy relies on a sound environment. America depends on our region for its energy future. Our shipping lanes,

beaches, bays, bayous and channels supply the nation with goods and services, seafood and agriculture, and recreational opportunities that rival anything on the planet. But the health of the Gulf's economic, community and environmental assets is threatened.

Countless lives and entire cultural heritages are rooted here, along with powerful natural assets that must be secured. This report provides answers that will lead to a more resilient Gulf region, for the benefit of the nation and its future generations. Join us in making sure Congress, the White House, and Gulf Coast leaders act now on its recommendations.

For more information or to learn how you can get involved,
please visit www.americaswetland.com

Blue Ribbon Resilient Communities

FACING A RISING TIDE: ASSESSING COMMUNITY VULNERABILITIES

On February 15, 2011, The America's WETLAND Foundation announced its "Blue Ribbon Resilient Communities: Envisioning the Future of America's Energy Coast" initiative to help Gulf Coast communities prepare for the growing threat posed by storms, rising sea levels, and man-made disasters.

Spanning 14 months and five states, the Blue Ribbon campaign convened forums in 11 communities from Texas to Florida. More than 1,100 local leaders came together with a wider network of experts and stakeholders to push past political and parochial boundaries and set a course for cooperative action.

Data from a \$4.2 million study commissioned by Entergy and AWF quantified the economic value of what is at stake. The livelihoods of 12 million people, natural resources that

support \$634 billion in annual GDP, and assets valued at more than \$2 trillion are increasingly vulnerable to storm surge, flooding, wind damage and the effects of sea level rise. The study also identified \$49 billion in investments over the next 20 years that could avert \$137 billion in losses.

In advance of each Blue Ribbon forum, AWF conducted community research, including a focus group and a series of interviews. Respondents in both cases were asked to discuss their community's values and to rate their community's performance on a number of resiliency indicators. Combined responses generated a resiliency index for each community (see following page). These layers of local feedback, combined with detailed research, gave forum participants a groundbreaking opportunity to assess their community's vulnerabilities and outline steps to improve its resiliency.

The input gathered over the course of this initiative has come from policymakers, agency officials, business

leaders, concerned citizens and the gamut of professionals on the front lines — environmental managers from all fields, engineers, energy sector workers, farmers, fishermen, public works officials and community activists, among others. Their insights have generated dozens of recommendations that have already had a significant influence on state and federal policies.

The most important impact of this initiative, however, might be community empowerment. The Blue Ribbon forums have mobilized the energy, expertise and dedication of an entire region to protect its heritage and secure its future.

This report echoes the voice of an entire region. To view the specific recommendations generated by each Blue Ribbon Resilient Community, please visit: www.futureofthegulfcoast.org/



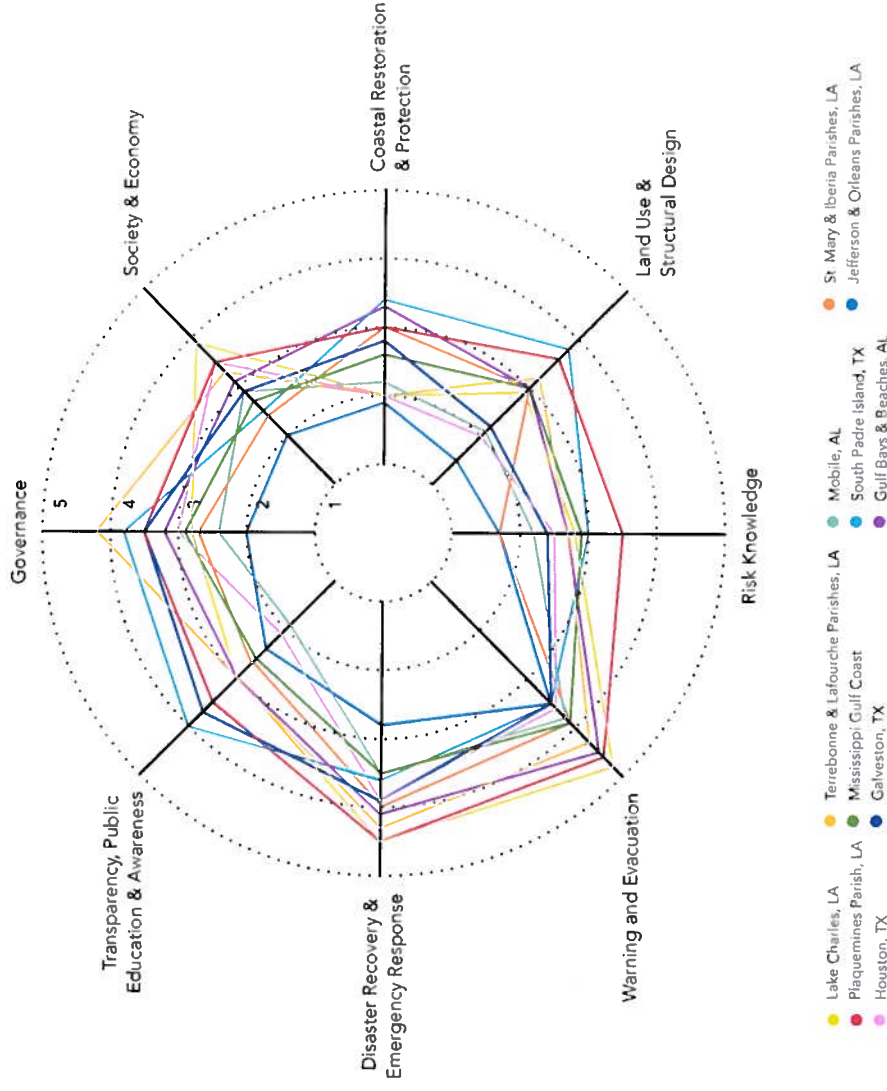
Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne, Louisiana, Chair, Blue Ribbon Resilient Communities (Plaquemines Parish, LA Forum)



John Hankinson, Executive Director, President's Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Jefferson/Orleans Parishes, LA Forum)



Blue Ribbon Resilient Communities: Combined Resiliency Indexes*



"The coastline is our top priority. Ultimately, if you can maintain the wetlands, you maintain the communities and their culture. But if they disappear, so does the fishing, cooking, music — all the family traditions, an entire heritage." —Lake Charles, LA

*Based in part on the Coastal Resilience Index developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. More at: www.mascg.org/page.asp?id=591; † Entergy Corporation [2010]. *Building a Resilient Energy Gulf Coast* (www.americanenergycoast.org/resilient.pdf).

Data from a \$4.2 million study commissioned by Entergy and AWF quantified the economic value of what is at stake:

- The livelihoods of 12 million people;
- Natural resources that support \$634 billion in annual GDP; and
- Assets and critical infrastructure valued at more than \$2 trillion are increasingly vulnerable to storm surge, flooding, wind damage, and the effects of sea level rise.

The study also identified \$49 billion in investments over the next 20 years that could avert \$137 billion in losses.



Blue Ribbon
Resilient Communities

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GULF COAST ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY

THE VOICE OF AN ENTIRE REGION

The following recommendations represent the voice of an entire region. They are built on research, testimony and an open dialogue that engaged more than 1,100 participants across five states. Each of these recommendations is critical, but one above all needs to be heard. Action must be taken immediately. If the status quo is allowed to continue, the deterioration of the Gulf Coast will accelerate and its valuable resources will eventually disappear.

1

SEEK URGENT FEDERAL ACTION Resolve Conflicting Federal Policies & Practices

Contradictory rules, regulations and agency priorities impede coastal restoration by delaying projects and increasing costs. A more orderly, efficient process must be established to meet urgent needs.

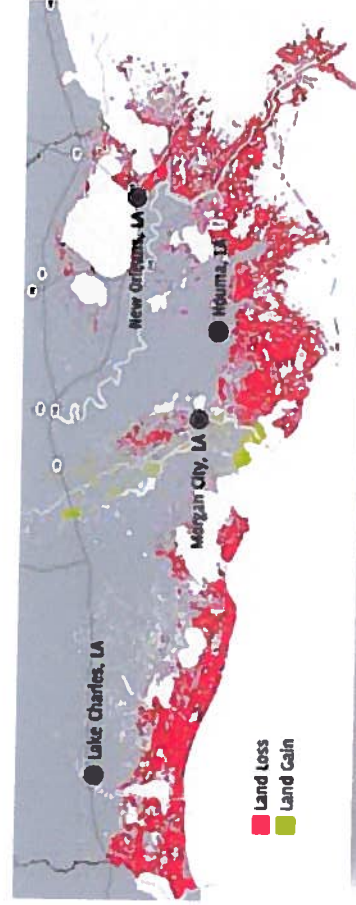
1. Fast-track coastal restoration projects that align with approved plans and priorities by establishing an appropriate mechanism, such as an emergency rule.
2. Eliminate conflicting federal policies and improve inter-agency coordination by working with the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council and the President's

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to create a facilitating mechanism or agency structure that streamlines Gulf Coast protection and restoration.

3. Clarify mitigation requirements and restructure the permitting process to avoid delays or increased costs for environmentally beneficial coastal projects.
4. Consider alternative approaches, such as pooled mitigation funds, to finance priority, systemic projects.
5. Unlock the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for its intended purpose — navigation channel maintenance — and enact policies

that greatly increase the beneficial use of dredge material for coastal restoration.

6. Support and expedite efforts by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to update their guidelines and principles to more appropriately address coastal restoration.
7. Resolve conflicts among the National Flood Insurance Program, Federal Emergency Management Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Housing and Urban Development Agency, so that uprooted communities can refer to a single, easy-to-understand relocation/"buy-out" policy.



Louisiana loses the equivalent of a football field of land every hour.
Projected Land Loss Map, 2012-2061, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



Mississippi Gulf Coast Forum



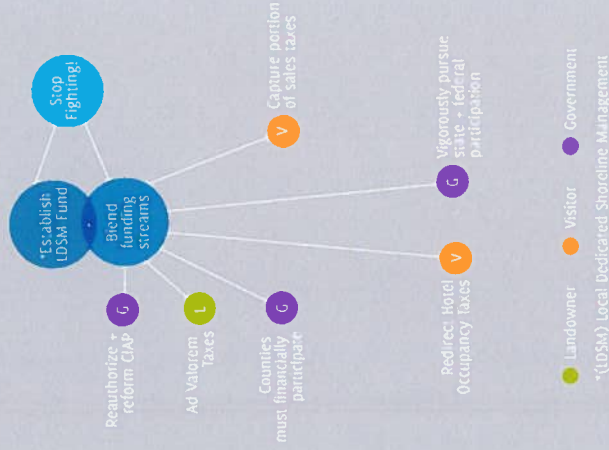
Paul McIlhenney, CEO, McIlhenney Co.
Makers of Tabasco© (Avery Island Forum)

"It's so hard to work your way through the political process, to get a law or a regulation modified, or to get a permit to do anything. We are forced to spend years doing studies and demonstration projects to develop guidelines, etc., before we can do any real work that actually helps. In the meantime, things just keep getting worse."
-Mobile, AL

"Some see Texas as a state with a coast, not a coastal state." -Houston, TX

Blended Funding Streams

The key to Successful Local Financial Planning



Blending Reliable, Long-Term Funding Streams. Presented at South Padre Island, TX. Forum by P. Ravella, PAR Consulting, LLC.

"There is no comprehensive regional management for coastal hazards. Given what we have learned from natural events, we need to adapt — from the federal level on down. But we just can't seem to get out of the blocks." -Galveston, TX

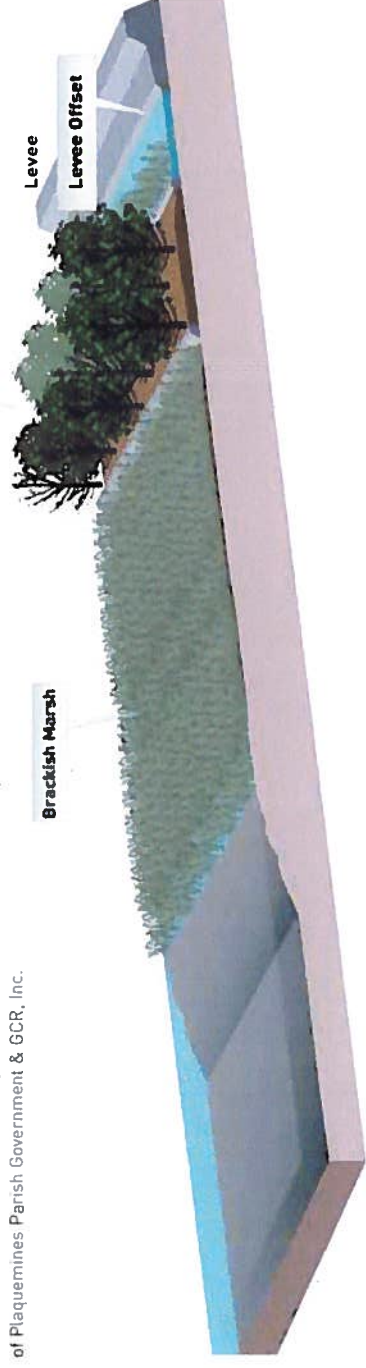
2 DEPLOY MULTIPLE LINES OF OFFENSE

Decrease Regional Vulnerabilities through Cooperative Action

- Short-term thinking has led to consequence planning defined by inadequate, piecemeal fixes — mainly in the wake of disasters. The focus must shift to a long-term vision for the future that emphasizes adaptation by using innovative, systemic approaches that incorporate non-structural and structural elements.
1. Address the Gulf Coast as a system with cooperative efforts that emphasize a comprehensive approach beyond geographic or political boundaries.
 2. Ensure that all levels of government enact policies and set funding priorities that support the maintenance and security of critical at-risk coastal infrastructure.
 3. Establish a local financial capacity to act by blending reliable, long-term funding streams, such as a percentage of occupancy and property taxes, dedicated to coastal restoration and protection.
 4. Secure a stable, sustained dredging budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that includes an additional 15 percent for the transportation and distribution of dredged material for coastal restoration.
 5. Consider amending federal policies so that urgent coastal restoration projects can be accomplished using the best available technologies to avoid unnecessary delays, cost overruns and capacity issues.
 6. Modify U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' policies and practices to utilize dredging resources continuously and to prioritize the assignment of necessary equipment and material to critical areas.
 7. Determine the best method for beneficial retrieval and reuse of Mississippi River sediments during high water periods.

Re-establishing Natural Lines of Defense

Presented at the Plaquemines Parish, LA, Forum by J. Suhayda, Interim Director, Louisiana State University Hurricane Center. Graphic courtesy of Plaquemines Parish Government & GCR, Inc.



3

ALLOW INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE TO FLOURISH

Support Strategies To Facilitate Regional Stewardship

Bureaucratic barriers and a lack of smart incentives hinder the development of creative, efficient coastal restoration strategies. Unless policies and plans harness the power of new technologies, visionary research, market forces and local ingenuity, environmental degradation will continue to outpace restoration and protection efforts.

the permitting process, including the development of a consequence/cost ratio to be used as a supplement to traditional cost/benefit project analysis.

improvement and enhanced coastal habitats.

4. Develop a viable carbon market through public/private partnerships to create incentives for carbon sequestration, land building and emissions reductions.

5. Fund the development of a comprehensive, regional water management and coastal restoration strategy that integrates the Mississippi River watershed and fresh water planning.

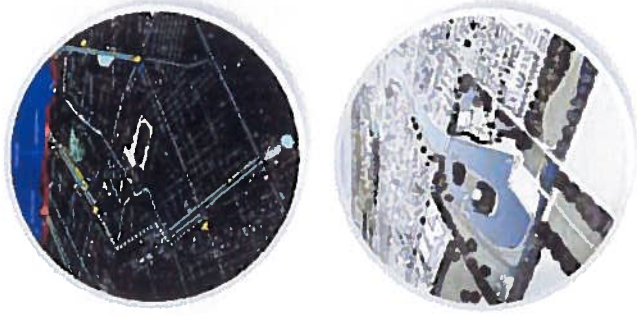
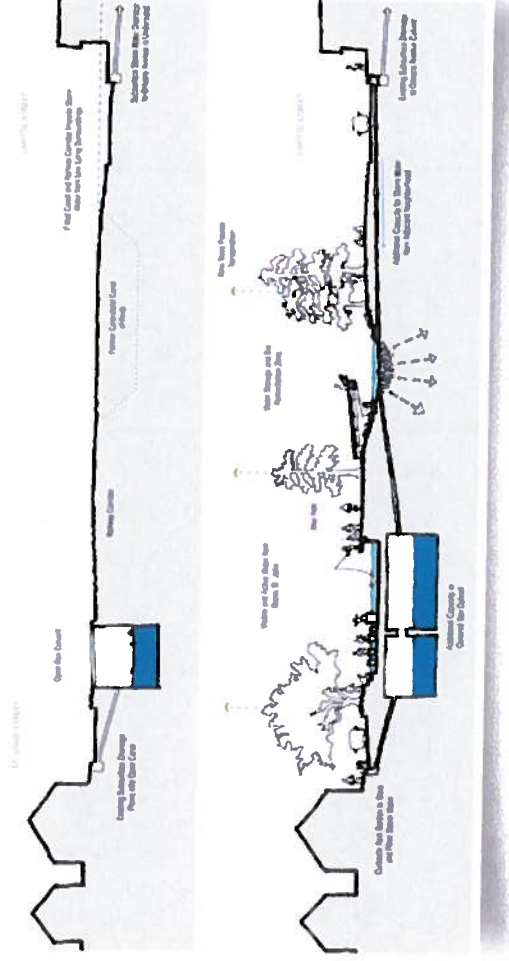
1. Determine a method for valuing ecosystem services that can be incorporated into

3. Support funding for living shorelines, such as constructed oyster reefs, which provide multiple benefits, including shoreline protection, water quality

2. Provide tax credits or other incentives, such as mitigation credits, for private landowners who complete restoration and resiliency projects, such as marsh creation, carbon sequestration and home retrofitting.

Living With Water — Integrated Management

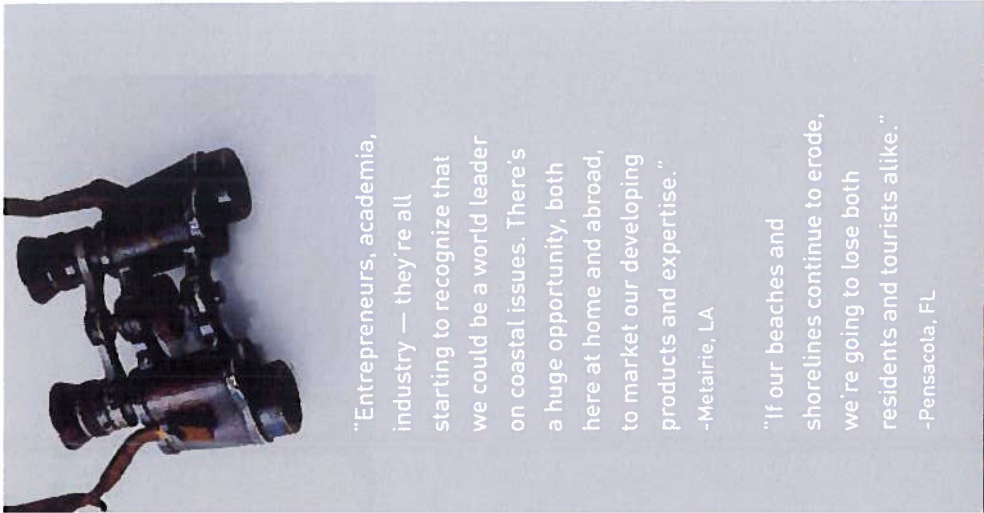
Presented at Jefferson/Orleans Parishes, LA Forum by D. Waggonner, Waggonner & Ball Architects



Dale Morris, Senior Economist and Director, Dutch Water Management Network, Royal Netherlands Embassy to the United States (New Orleans, LA, Forum)

"Our evacuation procedures have gotten very good, but we need to discuss integrated water management. We need to get beyond levees, floodwalls and house-raising. We need to change our attitude to think about what we need — not just to survive here, but to thrive here. We need to think differently about living with water."

-New Iberia, LA



"Entrepreneurs, academia, industry — they're all starting to recognize that we could be a world leader on coastal issues. There's a huge opportunity, both here at home and abroad, to market our developing products and expertise."

-Metairie, LA

"If our beaches and shorelines continue to erode, we're going to lose both residents and tourists alike."

-Pensacola, FL



David Keane, Vice-President, BG Group; Chair, America's Energy Coast Industry Council (Houston, TX Forum)

4 REVITALIZE REGIONAL STRENGTHS & PRIDE

Empower Communities to Practice Self-Determination

Coastal degradation and mounting vulnerabilities threaten entire communities, cultures and a valued way of life. Local citizens must adapt to changing circumstances to preserve their cultural heritage and build the foundation for a stronger future.

1. Ensure that plans, policies and regulations developed at all levels of government to address coastal vulnerabilities commit to a principle of "no net loss of culture" to

avoid the loss of at-risk indigenous and historic cultures along the Gulf.

2. Revise U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' valuation methodology so that Gulf oil and gas ports are ranked by tonnage.

3. Encourage local entrepreneurship and economic diversification to reduce reliance on the success of any one sector for future prosperity.

4. Increase inland communities' understanding of their reliance on vulnerable coastal assets so that

restoration and protection funding is properly prioritized.

5. Capitalize on the Gulf Coast's opportunity to become a global leader in coastal planning, restoration and water management by supporting related institutions and businesses.

6. Coordinate marketing efforts regionally to promote tourism and highlight Gulf Coast assets, such as outdoor recreation, seafood, eco-tourism, and domestic energy production.



Chief Albert Naquin, Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha; Chief Thomas Dardar, Jr., United Houma Nation (Lafourche/Terrebonne Parishes, LA Forum)



5

SUSTAIN ACTION BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Communicate Regional Visions for Resiliency

The degradation of the Gulf Coast will continue to accelerate without a robust, coordinated response that enlists all interested parties and every level of government.

1. Release Blue Ribbon Resilient Communities recommendations and disseminate to policymakers at all levels.

2. Build support among state governors for the Blue Ribbon recommendations with the help of organizations such as the Gulf of Mexico Alliance.

3. Convene industry and NGO government affairs staff to coordinate advocacy efforts and to establish support within Congress, the Administration, and state and local governments.

4. Build broader trust and understanding by briefing state, local and federal agencies to solicit their involvement in planning and project development.

5. Advocate at every level for comprehensive, long-term planning in lieu of reactionary, piecemeal projects and policies.

"We don't think long term about anything — from how we deal with storms to actually thinking about sustainability. We need to paint a vision for the region, connect it to policies and outline what they mean on a day-to-day basis. There needs to be a collective effort to say, 'this is how we view our region and where we need to go.'"

-Biloxi, MS



Mayor Randy Roach, Lake Charles, LA, (LaFourche/Terrebonne Parishes, LA Forum)

"Right now there are landowners who will do their own coastal restoration at their own expense, but even if they do manage to get a permit, their hands are tied up in so much red tape that they can't get anything done."

-Heuma, LA



Jeff Williams, Director -
Climate Strategy, Entergy
(Mobile, AL Forum)



Susan Kaderka, South Central Regional
Director, National Wildlife Federation
(Jefferson/Orleans Parishes, LA Forum)



Parish President Billy Nungesser,
Plaquemines Parish, LA (Plaquemines
Parish, LA Forum)



Gary Sero, Vice President, Entergy; Commissioner
Buddy Garcia, Texas Railroad Commission
(Jefferson/Orleans Parishes, LA Forum)



Dr. Susan Rees, Program
Manager, U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers (Mobile, AL Forum)

Blue Ribbon Resilient Communities

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S ENERGY COAST

COMMUNITY FORUMS (below) & INDIVIDUAL SPEAKERS (on right)

Lake Charles, LA, March 22-23, 2011

Plaquemines Parish, LA, May 16-17, 2011

Houston, TX, June 28, 2011

Lafourche & Terrebonne Parishes, LA,
September 28-29, 2011

Mississippi Gulf Coast, October 19-20, 2011

Galveston, TX, November 16-17, 2011

Mobile, AL, January 25, 2012

South Padre Island, TX, March 8, 2012

Gulf Bays & Beaches, AL & FL, March 22, 2012

St. Mary & Iberia Parishes, LA, April 11, 2012

Jefferson & Orleans Parishes, LA, May 29-30, 2012

All presentations delivered at
the Blue Ribbon Resilient
Communities Forums are available
for free download online at

www.futureofthegulfcoast.org,
as are the findings reports from
each community, along with a
more detailed description of the
initiative and contact information
for media and further inquiries.

The America's WETLAND Foundation is a non-
partisan, non-profit organization that has acted

as a neutral arbiter for coastal interests since its
inception in 2002, elevating issues facing the Gulf
Coast, specifically those of coastal land loss, to
regional and national attention.

For more information please visit:
www.americaswetland.com

An initiative of the America's WETLAND
Foundation, America's Energy Coast is a diverse
group of business and industry leaders, national
environmental and conservation organizations,
scientists and researchers, and coastal interests
from across the four energy-producing states

of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.
The coalition's mission is to provide a balanced
forum to work together toward the development
of comprehensive solutions to sustain the
vital Gulf Coast economic region and the
environment on which it depends.

For more information please visit:
www.americasenergycoast.org

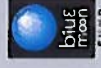
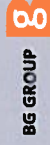


The following Cooperating Organizations were instrumental in the success of this initiative

5 rivers - Alabama's Delta Resource Center
Bayou Interfaith Shared
Community Organizing
Center for Planning Excellence
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Galveston Bay Foundation
Greater Houston Partnership
Greater New Orleans Foundation
Greater New Orleans, INC
Harte Research Institute,
Texas A&M University
Houston Wilderness
Louisiana Sheriff's Association
Mississippi Department of
Marine Resources
National Association of Counties

National Conference of State Legislatures
National Wildlife Federation
Police Jury Association of Louisiana
Shell Center for Sustainability,
Rice University
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Texas General Land Office
The Nature Conservancy

The Blue Ribbon Resilient Community Initiative was
made possible by the generous support of its sponsors



LIST OF SPEAKERS

Judith Adams
Vice President, Marketing
Alabama State Port Authority

Mead Allison, Ph.D
Associate Director, Jackson School for
Geosciences, University of Texas-Austin

John Anderson, Ph.D
Shell Center for Sustainability
Rice University

Johnny Atherton
Vice President of External Affairs
Mississippi Power

Steven Atkins
Owner, The Atkins Group

Allia Bagley
Councilmember
South Padre Island, TX

Colette Boehm
Director of Special Projects
Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, AL, Tourism

Jeffrey Buchanan
Senior Domestic Policy Advisor
Oxfam America

Chris Canfield
Vice President, Gulf of Mexico
Conservation & Restoration, National
Audubon Society

Jeff Carney
Director, Coastal Sustainability Studio
Louisiana State University

Lynne Carter, Ph.D
Associate Director, Southern
Climate Impacts Planning, Louisiana
State University

Hon. Michel Claudet
President, Terrebonne Parish, LA

Sidney Coffee
Senior Advisor
America's WETLAND Foundation

Thomas Colbert
Associate Professor
College of Agriculture, University of
Houston; SSPEED Center at Rice University

Joe Conn
Director of Port Restoration
Port of Gulfport

John Cronin, Jr.
President & CEO, Houston Wilderness

Hon. Jay Dardenne
Lt. Governor, LA

Hon. Randy Davis
Alabama State Representative

Quenton Dokken, Ph.D
President and CEO
Gulf of Mexico Foundation

Brent Dorsey
Director, Environmental Programs
Energy Corporation

Hon. JoAnn Evans
Mayor Pro-Tem
South Padre Island, TX

Hon. Vivian Figures
Alabama State Senator

John Foret, Ph.D
Research Ecologist, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Association (NOAA)

Buddy Garcia
Commissioner, Texas Railroad Commission

Sharon & David Gauthie
Bisco, LA

Karen Gautreaux
Director of Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy, LA

James Gibeau, Ph.D
Endowed Chair for Geospatial Sciences
Harte Research Institute,
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Ronnie Gonsoulin
Owner, Gonsoulin Farms

John Hankinson
Executive Director, President's Gulf Coast
Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

Dan Hanson
Homeowners' Insurance Initiative
All Churches Together (ACTII)

David Keane
Chair, America's Energy Coast Industry
Council; Vice President for Corporate &
Policy Affairs, BG Group

Paul Kemp, Ph.D
Vice President, Gulf Coast Initiative,
National Audubon Society

Hon. Tony Kennon
Mayor, Orange Beach, AL

James Landry
CBO, New Iberia, LA

Camille Manning Broome
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Center for Planning Excellence

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Steve Matheis, Ph.D
Technical Director, Cardno

Paul McIlhenny
Chairman and CEO, McIlhenny Company

Larry McKinney, Ph.D
Director, Harte Research Institute,
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

William Merrell, Ph.D
George P. Mitchell Chair of Marine
Sciences & Director, Center for Texas
Beaches, Texas A&M University-Galveston

R. King Milling
Chairman, America's WETLAND Foundation

Randy Moertle
President, Randy Moertle
and Associates, Inc.

Jerry Mohr
President, West Galveston Island
Homeowners and Property
Owners Association

Peggy Montana
Executive Vice President,
Supply & Distribution, Shell

Dale Morris
Senior Economic Advisor
The Royal Netherlands Embassy

Hon. Paul Naquin, Jr.
President, St. Mary Parish, LA

Jack Norris
President, Gulf Coast Business Council

Hon. Billy Nungesser
President, Plaquemines Parish, LA

Ken P'Pool
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,
Mississippi Department of Archives
& History

Bharat 'Bany' Patel
Owner, Copa Inn; Member, South Padre
Island, TX, Beach and Dune Task Force

Dan Pennington
Community Planner
1000 Friends of Florida

Alice Perry
Assistant Director, Mississippi Department
of Environmental Quality; Member, Gulf
Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

Roy Pontiff
Executive Director, Port of New Iberia

Patti Powell
State Lands Director, Alabama Department
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President, Lafourche Parish, LA

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Denise Reed, Ph.D
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Susan Rees, Ph.D
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District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Mayor, Lake Charles, LA

Hon. Enrol Romero
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Mary Kate Stubjar
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The Nature Conservancy

Alan Sudduth
Mississippi Public & Government
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Joseph Suhayda
Interim Director, Hurricane Center
Louisiana State University

Roberta Swann
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Estuary Program

Labon Swann, Ph.D
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Louisiana State University

Mark Vincent
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Port of Houston Authority

J. David Waggoner
Waggoner & Ball Architects

William Walker, Ph.D
Executive Director, Mississippi
Department of Marine Resources

William C. Walton, Ph.D
Assistant Professor, Auburn University

Jeff Williams
Director, Climate Strategy
Entergy Corporation

Meg Winchester
Director, Galveston Convention
and Visitor's Bureau

Helen Young
Deputy Commissioner, Coastal Resources
Texas General Land Office

ADDENDUM: ANECDOTAL SUBMISSIONS

Throughout the Blue Ribbon Resilient Communities Initiative, participants submitted anecdotal evidence regarding permitting for coastal improvement projects—a topic that has generated considerable frustration and debate due to the often costly, confusing, and lengthy approval process. We include samples of that anecdotal evidence here as expressed in the participants' own words.



Nicholas Matherne

Director, Office of Coastal Restoration & Preservation
Terrebonne Parish, LA Consolidated Government

"Terrebonne Parish is currently working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to acquire permits for the North Lake Boudreaux Freshwater Introduction CWPRA project (TE-32a). The project was approved over 15 years ago, and, to date, we still have not been granted the necessary permits. This is an inexcusable timeframe to get such a conceptually simple project built. The project consists of deepening Bayou Pelton and constructing a conveyance channel under LA Hwy 57 eastward to the alarmingly degraded marsh north of Lake Boudreaux. While the devil may be in the details here, even going so far as to split hairs on terminology, mitigation is being required for this project on two levels.

The first level of mitigation requirements is somewhat more understandable than the other. We have not yet conducted a wetland delineation to help determine the quantity of mitigation, but under the Modified Charleson Method, our outlook is not an optimistic one. As Dwayne Bourgeois of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee, and Drainage District suggested to Col. Edward Fleming of the New Orleans District, public works projects (most specifically levees) that have direct impacts to wetlands, can understandably require mitigation. To be reasonable,

however, the Corps should recognize that these projects are not undertaken to access an oil well or encourage navigation in an area where there was previously no such access so the governmental entity can reap profits, but rather to protect communities so that there can be an actual population still present on the coast to enjoy the benefits of the wetlands the permitting regulations seek to protect. Rather than the possibly extreme mitigation requirements to be doled out through the Modified Charleson Method, perhaps the New Orleans District could consider imposing a maximum 1:1 ratio for mitigation on public works projects. Our North Lake Boudreaux Freshwater Introduction project would be a prime candidate for this type of mitigation imposition. The levees, by nature of their construction, obviously have direct impacts to wetlands, but since it is meant for protection of the public, and not for private revenue, the impacts should be mitigated no more than 1:1, if at all.

The second level of mitigation requirements is much more difficult to comprehend and accept. To transport a larger volume of freshwater in an area that was historically cypress swamp, but is now merely a cypress "graveyard," as a result of saltwater intrusion, we need to both deepen the existing channel of Bayou Penchant and construct a new conveyance channel to facilitate movement of freshwater into a formerly fresh environment that has now converted to a more saline brackish environment. The permitting and commenting agencies, however, choose to blatantly ignore the benefits of re-introducing fresh water into the basin, simply because they are not quantifiable, and so these agencies require the dredged material from deepening Bayou Pelton and constructing the conveyance channel to be used beneficially. While we agree on the local level that this would be the most environmentally beneficial plan of action, we also recognize the limited funds available for coastal restoration in Louisiana and further recognize that this far more expensive option that is being required by the permitting and commenting agencies robs funding for other projects in areas that are in dire need of attention. This requirement is especially frustrating when realizing that, although the conveyance channel may not transport a high enough volume of sediment resources to build new land, the fresh water introduced into the basin will undoubtedly save and retain wetlands that would have otherwise fallen victim to saltwater intrusion.

In addition to the mitigation research, calculations, and negotiations that hold up projects like this, there is the issue of Essential Fish Habitat that was raised the America's Wetland Foundation Blue Ribbon Resilient Communities forum in New Orleans. There are almost infinitely more numerous examples of projects that have been negatively affected by the management of Essential Fish Habitat, but for my purposes, I will continue with the example of the TE-32a CWPRA project. The term "Essential Fish Habitat" is defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Public Law 94-265) as "those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity." (16 U.S.C. 1802 Sec. 3.10) This broad definition effectively encompasses ALL coastal waters in the Gulf of Mexico region, in Louisiana, apart from White Lake in Vermilion Parish and Grand Lake in Cameron Parish. As a portion of the area proposed to be enclosed by the levees associated with the CWPRA project mentioned above include wetlands and open water areas that allegedly are currently utilized by fisheries of the area, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has voiced its objection to enclosing these areas and impeding fish access. NMFS wishes us to move the levees more inland, in inconveniently close proximity to established communities. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act defines the classification "fishing community" to be "a community which is substantially dependent on or substantially engaged in the harvest or processing of fishery resources to meet social and economic needs, and includes fishing vessel owners, operators, and crew and United States fish processors that are based in such community" (16 U.S.C. 1802 Sec. 3.16). The communities to be benefited by the TE-32a CWPRA project are specifically defined in Appendix D of the March 2004 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat Amendment to all 7 management plans of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to be "fishing communities".

Here's where the Magnuson-Stevens Act really gets interesting. Sec. 301.a.8 of the Act, under the heading "National Standards for Fishery Conservation and Management" states: 301.a.8 Conservation and management measures shall, consistent with the conservation requirements of this Act (including the prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks), take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities in order to (A) provide

for the sustained participation of such communities, and (B) to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities.

NMFS may wish to argue the point that in the case of this CWPRA project, moving the levees more inland and encroaching on the accessibility of the affected landowners' property may not "maximize" adverse economic impacts on this particular fishing community, but there are obvious impacts, such as property value, that will quantifiably affect the economy. I would argue, in return, that there is no quantifiable way for NMFS to prove the "necessity" of the fishery resources we would be enclosing with the proposed levees that is required by NMFS' very own definition of Essential Fish Habitat.

Regarding mitigation, I believe we need to continue our ongoing discussion/negotiation with the New Orleans District on how mitigation is calculated and imposed. I would also like to see us collaborate regionally to formulate a list of impediments that have been endured by our region because of Essential Fish Habitat regulations, and to work with USGS to identify the number of acres of wetlands lost during the delays that have come at a cost of EFH policy implementation."



Ted Falgout, Falgout & Associates
Former Executive Director, Port Fourchon
Lafourche Parish, LA

"When I was building the Maritime Forest Ridge Project at the port, which was a very beneficial project to re-establish ridge habitat that once existed north of the port and had subsidized and turned to mostly open water, I experienced delays and additional costs that were totally unwarranted as a result of National Marine Fisheries comments. Again, this was not compensatory mitigation, just a very

expensive project that I convinced my board to do that would create a world class birding area and establish some very rare and much needed habitat.

Every agency that is responsible for protecting Coastal Louisiana should have done everything they could to support this initiative. In fact many did; NOAA gave a grant, NMFS did a planning and EPA granted the project its coveted Gulf Guardian Award. Just about everyone except National Marine Fisheries Service was extremely supportive. As a result of their comments, I had to make modifications to the ridge that were costly, reduced its utility and effectiveness and were totally unnecessary in my opinion. They demanded that I gap the ridge every 1000 ft. in order to increase fisheries access! This was in a rapidly eroding wetland that was quickly turning to open water. The Corps of Engineers is extremely reluctant to challenge NMFS once they play the Magnuson Fisheries Act card. I venture to say that most would have told NMFS where to shove the project and it would have never been built! There were other similar experiences that make my blood boil as well!

The example I gave at the meeting is also something that needs to be fixed and just doesn't: this happens to levee districts, parishes and many private landowners that have established borrow areas for levees in freshwater habitat. If the owner does the environmentally positive thing and lets aquatic growth accumulate in the borrow canal and allows floatant marsh to establish through a process called succession, then when he needs to obtain borrow from the canal, he has to incur expensive mitigation for destroying the marsh that he has allowed to establish and provide environmental benefits for the timeframe between borrow needs which can be decades. The owner is far better off if he sprays herbicide and maintains his canal and does not allow marsh plants to establish. So, in essence, we have a policy in place that discourages allowing marsh to establish. Now that the New Orleans District has adopted the Modified Charleston Method, this disincentive will be magnified many fold!

I will close by giving my thoughts on the Modified Charleston Method (MCM): I believe the impacts of this decision by the New Orleans District will be far reaching and will further challenge our ability to achieve sustainability for communities along the coast of Louisiana. In most cases, we simply do not have the option to avoid wetland impacts in Coastal Louisiana, especially for levee protection projects. Basically the district has tripled the cost of mitigation! Many communities have been struggling to find funding for protection. Unless we reverse this decision, we have basically written off the protection of much of Coastal Louisiana. Combined with the practices of NMFS above, I think this decision will discourage anyone

wishing to consider a restoration project that would be assessed for mitigation."



Randy Moertle
President, Randy Moertle & Associates

"Please find attached a timeline for our Coastal Use Permit for water control structures south of Avery Island. Please note the following concerning the permit:

1. Our project area for our permit application was under marsh management for 27 years previous to the permit application. The purpose of the permit was to replace an existing weir that had fallen under disrepair with four new stop-log, flap-gated water control structures. We also wanted to repair two other weirs and add four additional structures in a natural bayou. This natural bayou had previously been issued a permit to have a weir placed in it, but the work was never done. We were seeking to get the permit so we could apply for a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant to enhance waterfowl habitat. We partnered with Ducks Unlimited (DU) on the project. We were to get the permit and DU would do the design, engineering, and administration of the project.
2. From the very first we received objections from EPA, NMFS, and the FWS, as we expected. In each instance, they based their objections primarily on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) access. In each case, they were concerned that placement of water control structures would inhibit fisheries access. They based their assumptions on several scientific studies done at Louisiana State University. Please note that both the NMFS and FWS personnel writing the objections had gone to LSU and worked for or with the research scientist that authored the literature they cited.
3. We rebutted each and every objection in their letters in two responses (see attached), but had little to no progress in convincing them of our project's merit. In our rebuttals, we used the same scientific studies they cited and even used other scientific studies showing

results countering their conclusions. For example, they came to their conclusions using studies done in other water shed basins, done in brackish marshes, and within leveed impoundments to make assumptions of conditions for our area in the Teche-Vermilion Basin, in a fresh-intermediate marsh, and in a non-leveed marsh. Even when the limitations of the scientific studies they cited were addressed in the papers, the federal agencies ignored and did not address those limitations. In our rebuttal, we even cited other scientific literature that questioned the findings of those studies cited. We believe, however, that as a whole, the federal agency personnel did not objectively consider our rebuttal. Instead, they stuck by their original objections based on their subjective assumptions of the literature cited.

4. All the agencies objected to the installation of new water control structures in Bayou Cassmer, even though a weir had been previously permitted. We believe it shows inconsistency and bias toward an overall policy of opposition to installation of any type of water control structure.
5. Interestingly enough, the same agencies that oppose the use of water control structures, use water control structures on their federal and state wildlife management areas and refuges. There seems to be an "ocean wide" difference between how academics and regulatory personnel view water control and marsh management and how federal, state, and private land managers view water control and marsh management. The academics and regulatory personnel equate unobstructed water flow as essential to fish habitat. In their opinion, this unobstructed flow allows the maximum numbers of fish to utilize an area, therefore, maximizing the habitat. Resource managers, on the other hand, believe that unrestricted water exchange allows for the introduction of harmful saline waters and causes extreme erosion as a product of sheer velocity and friction. It is obvious that those that really do manage marshlands are in favor of water control and marsh management while those who have never managed one acre falsely believe they are maximizing fisheries habitat. It seems intuitive that with no marsh habitat, you will eventually end up with no fisheries.
6. Although the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers makes the ultimate decision on whether or not a permit is issued, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has a memorandum of understanding in which they can challenge the Corps decision. It is without question, that they use the threat of elevating their objection to a higher level to cover the Corps analysts. The Corps is already overwhelmed with permit issues and they do not want to add even more work and effort in fighting NMFS.

As applicants to the federal and state permitting process, it appears to us that NMFS is "driving the bus" and leading the process through their single species focused EFH mandate. We as landowners are greatly in favor of EFH, however, we believe it is more important to preserve habitat than to allow unabated fish access and that all fish and wildlife species need to be considered, not just a few esuarine dependent species.

7. As applicants, we feel there is no appellate system to address the flawed interpretation of EFH. Even though we may had a proven track record of 27 years that demonstrates that our land management practices have preserved and even increased marsh habitat, the regulatory agencies have policies in place that discouraged our efforts for habitat management enhancement. Many landowners find that the process is so expensive and onerous that they completely give up trying to get permits for much needed protection and restoration. This only leaves applicants with a feeling of despair that nothing can be accomplished given the current permitting process.
8. As applicants, we often find ourselves dealing with analysis that have limited field experience. They often have difficulty understanding plats and engineering drawings and have a limited knowledge of construction equipment. Therefore, permit applicants are in a constant "trick-bag" of having their permit applications put on hold (see attached timeline). This forces the applicant to continually make plat revisions and respond to redundant and unnecessary information requests. This only delays permit issuance and runs up costs. It also appears that even though the applicant had mimicked previously authorized permit applications, the regulatory agencies seem to find new and unusual ways to increase the requirements and information needed for each successive permit application.
9. As landowner applicants, we do not believe we need to be saddled with all types of monitoring and annual reports. They are time consuming and costly. Our greatest goal is to preserve, enhance, and protect our own property. Having to report to regulators that do not either understand the landowner management goals or believe that the goals and objectives are counter to their particular regulatory mandate is unacceptable. It is not the job of the regulators to set private property management goals. By forcing their limited understanding of management on the landowner, and atmosphere of conflict develops between regulators and private property owners. Each landowner understands the regulators public trust, however, in an effort to protect the public trust, policy positions like those taken by NMFS in their interpretation of EFH causes far more harm than good.

10. Finally, as demonstrated by the expansion of the Louisiana Coastal Zone, it is evident that government intervention and regulation is only becoming more invasive and onerous. Like all government intervention, the regulatory permit system is grinding coastal protection and restoration to a halt. The added time, effort, and expense to get permits has discouraged many landowners to the point that they no longer want to even try. Hope this helps in understanding what permit applicants are up against. If you need any clarification, let me know.*

(*Three Bayous Permit Timeline on right)



Jerome Zeringue

Executive Director, Louisiana Office of Coastal Restoration & Protection

OBSERVATIONS

- Agreement among federal agencies on the goal of Coastal Restoration programs is needed, i.e., is the goal to build land, restore ecosystems, restore historic water conditions, maintain current conditions? Opposing goals can delay projects while this issue is being negotiated. One agency may be seeking to restore the area to the historic ecology and another believes its agency's mission is to keep maintain the status quo and will resist the change to historic conditions.
- The current practice of funding federal projects one year at a time is an impediment that should be removed.
- The establishment of a Programmatic EIS/EA and a programmatic BO for Endangered Species would remove significant impediments to implementation of restoration projects.
- Joint Coastal Permits: Currently, USACE does not have a restriction on how long it takes to evaluate and respond to a permit request. If a permit has a 30-day public comment period they should be required to comment

within that period like the other federal agencies.

- USACE Feasibility Study Screening Criteria: Restoration projects should not be evaluated solely on environmental benefits but also by national economic benefits. For example, a barrier island has one of the lowest AARU's of all of the restoration projects, but it has one of the highest benefits to flood protection, seafood industry, etc. Projects may have more national interest if all the benefits to the nation were highlighted.
- Total Project Costs: There needs to be a greater recognition by the Federal Government and the public of what the true total project costs are to the non-federal sponsor. This is never clearly stated in the Chief's Report to Congress or to the public by USACE. A project construction effort may be cost shared 65% Federal/35% Non-Federal (LCA program), but if the non-Federal sponsor is responsible for 100% O&M costs, 100% Adaptive Management implementation after the first 10 years of construction for a project with a 50 year product life cycle, plus any planned re-nourishment costs to meet the life cycle objectives then it is possible that the non-Federal sponsor will pay more money than the Federal Government over the life of the project.
- Federal Reimbursement Policy: CPRA should be able to receive reimbursement for projects constructed by the State or apply credit for that project to another Federal program.
- Federal funding by fiscal year: If USACE and other Federal agencies were fully funded up front and allowed to carry funds over without the risk of losing them they could focus on the product more than the process. Also, this would increase the project team's ability to deliver them on schedule and within budget.
- USACE Agreements: Multiple agreements for a single project (Feasibility, Design, and Construction) slow project momentum and could be combined when prudent to do so. For example, if the Design and Construction agreements could be combined then tasks such as land

rights acquisition could be performed when the final project footprint is identified rather than waiting until the construction agreement is signed.

EXAMPLE PROJECTS:

BA-43 Mississippi River Long Distance Sediment Pipeline Project (MVN-2009-1353-EFF) and BA-48 Bayou Dupont Marsh Restoration and Ridge Creation BA-48 (MVN-2010-2720-EFF)

- The delay on these two projects has been the slow permit process by the Corps.
- The Corps does not have a deadline for submitting comments during and after the project permit has gone out on public notice.
- At the Corps, all responses to permits have to follow a procedural review process through various offices and divisions regardless of specific comments.
- Despite sending specific comments to the Corps requesting office/division, they will not discuss or respond except through the permit review process.

TIMELINE

- August 4, 2011- Bayou Dupont permit application resubmitted to Corps;
- September 28, 2011- Bayou Dupont permit comments received from Corps;
- September 29, 2011- Meet at Corps with Engineering Operations to discuss permit comments; Corps reiterated that CPRA delineate 1.3 MCY reserve for the Saltwater Barrier Sill (SWBS) – Borrow Area 1 in the Alliance Anchorage Borrow Area.
- October 26, 2011- Meeting was held at Corps to discuss SWBS footprint and Slope Stability Analyses requirements; Corps reiterated again that CPRA delineate 1.3 MCY for SWBS; Dredging template layout discussed and revised as per USACE.

November 3, 2011- A presentation on LDSP proposed borrow areas, dredging templates, and SWBS delineation was made at the Corps to the Mississippi River Maintenance Forum. Presented the revised proposed borrow area and dredging template which reserves 1.3 MCY for SWBS.

December 16, 2011- LDSP permit was put out on joint public notice.

January 27, 2012- Corps Engineering/Operations permit comments were received requesting additional slope stability analyses. It was also requested that CPRA demonstrate the sediment for the SWBS remain.

March 14, 2012- Two sets and digital copies of the slope stability analyses reports for the Willis Point, Alliance Anchorage, and Alliance South borrow areas, and responses to permit comments for the LDSP and Bayou Dupont projects, were hand delivered to the Corps permitting office.

June 8, 2012- CPRA received permit comments from Corps Permit Analyst.

June 19, 2012- Follow up meeting held at the Corps office. Reviewed comments with Corps Geotechnical Section. At the end of the meeting we were advised by Corp Operations that they now needed 2.0 to 2.5 MCY of material for the SWBS and that the SWBS borrow area had been redefined into our Alliance borrow area as shown in red on the attachment.

The CPRA proposed dredging template for the LDSP/BA-48 project estimates approximately 6.5 MCY of available material for marsh creation and additionally reserves 1.3 MCY for the SWBS.

Using the permitted area, the recently revised SWBS borrow area will reduce available material to less than 1.0 MCY in the Alliance Anchorage Borrow area due to the new orientation, thus making this borrow area ineffective for the construction of this project and future projects as well.



Plaquemines Parish, LA Forum



Volunteers at a marsh grass planting (Mississippi Gulf Coast Forum)



Karen Gautreaux, Director – Government Relations, Louisiana Chapter, The Nature Conservancy (Lake Charles, LA Forum)



Mayor Mitch Landrieu, New Orleans, LA (Jefferson/Orleans Parishes Forum)

Three Bayous Permit Timeline (Moertle & Associates)

Date	Description	Agency	Comments	Major Impediments
12/12/08	Submitted permit application	OCM		
12/16/09	Returned to McIlhenny	OCM	Request for permit plat revisions	
12/18/09	Application resubmitted	OCM	Revised drawings sent to OCM	
12/24/09	Returned to McIlhenny	OCM	Request for more permit plat revisions	
12/29/09	Application resubmitted	OCM	Revised drawings sent to OCM	
12/30/09	Application completed and sent to OCM analyst	OCM		
12/30/09	Application put on hold	OCM	Request for information concerning equipment right-of-way, where rock to be placed, contact LDWF to resolve sensitive feature	
1/30/09	Information requested provided by McIlhenny	OCM	Permit taken off hold	
2/2/09	Application put on hold	OCM	Request for more information concerning depth of dredging, more equipment right-of-way information, operational schedule for water control structures	
2/17/09	Objection to project by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	EPA	Objection to marsh management and water control structures	Essential Fish Habitat
2/19/09	Information requested provided by McIlhenny	OCM	Permit taken off hold	
2/23/09	Objection to project by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	NMFS	Objection to marsh management and water control structures using Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) reduction as justification	Essential Fish Habitat
2/25/09	Objection to project by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	FWS	Objection to marsh management water control structures at Bayou Cassmer and proposed drawdowns for waterfowl enhancement	Essential Fish Habitat
2/26/09	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) request for rebuttal to EPA, NMFS, and FWS objections.	COE	Request for rebuttal to objection letters	Essential Fish Habitat
2/20/09	Application put on hold	OCM	Third request for information to applicant for equipment ROW information and dredging depth	
3/9/09	Application put on hold	OCM	Request to coordinate with LDWF on sensitive areas	
4/3/09	Application put on hold	OCM	Request for landowner decision on compensatory mitigation.	
4/13/09	McIlhenny rebuttal to objection letters.	COE	Fifteen (15) page rebuttal sent to COE addressing each objection from the federal agencies.	Extensive review of literature cited as basis for objections required a point by point rebuttal from McIlhenny
5/19/09	Application off hold	OCM		
6/5/09	Application put on hold	OCM	Request for landowner to meet with agencies and respond to letters of objection and rebuttals	
6/6/09	FWS response to McIlhenny rebuttal.	FWS	Objection to drawdowns dropped; all other comments remain the same as previous objection letter.	Federal agencies would not be deterred in their belief that any impediment to fisheries access equated to loss of fisheries habitat. Did not address scientific research that questioned this hypothesis even though it was included in McIlhenny rebuttal.
6/10/09	NMFS response to McIlhenny rebuttal.	NMFS	All objections remain the same as in previous objection letter based on EFH. NMFS exercises its elevation authority between the COE and NMFS.	
6/17/09	EPA response to McIlhenny rebuttal	EPA	Further objections were not forthcoming as EPA had not visited the site.	
7/1/09	Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries email of concerns for EFH	LDWF	LDWF wanted water control structure operational information during non-drawdown years.	

Date	Description	Agency	Comments	Major Impediments
7/1/09	McIlhenny response to LDWF	OCM	Response to all agency objections and concerns will be forthcoming.	
8/7/09	McIlhenny response to FWS, NMFS, and EPA rebuttals and LDWF concerns	COE	Seven (7) page response was sent to COE that addressed continued objections from FWS, NMFS, and EPA	The agency refusal to move from their EFH policy position, required the landowner to respond again to their comments.
8/24/09	McIlhenny forced to remove water control structures at Bayou Cassmer in order to continue with permit application.	COE	Because of federal agency objections and EFH concerns, the water control structures at Bayou Cassmer had to be removed	Agency objections required the landowner to abandon planned water control structures at one location despite a 27 year proven record of marsh management.
9/1/09	McIlhenny response to OCM concerning permit plat revisions to reflect removal of Bayou Cassmer water control structures.	OCM	McIlhenny informs OCM that permit plat revisions will be forthcoming.	Over nine (6) months had passed since the original permit application had been submitted due to federal agency interpretation of EFH policy. The landowner was forced to revise the project and undergo the added expense of permit revisions.
11/2/09	OCM field investigator revises calculated impacts.	OCM	Impact calculations reduced as result of removal of water control structures at Bayou Cassmer	
11/3/09	FWS, NMFS, LDWF objection to Bayou Cassmer water control structures cause revision of permit plats	OCM	The water control structures were removed from permit plats.	
11/30/09	Application put on hold	OCM	Request for change in permit plats to reflect three different types of fill material.	
12/7/09	LDWF wants revised management plan to reflect recommendations from FWS and NMFS	LDWF	LDWF wants change in operational plan.	The water control operational plan had to be revised despite the submitted plan being acceptable in other authorized marsh management permits. This is inconsistent.
12/16/09	Landowner response	OCM	Application put off hold by analyst	
12/17/09	OCM wants review of revised operational plan.	OCM	Requested review by all agencies.	
1/4/10	Processing fee paid	OCM		
1/4/10	Coastal Use Permit issued with special conditions	OCM	Permit required installation of water level gauges, salinity monitoring, vegetative monitoring, recording of any changes in the marsh and annual reports	These special conditions require an ongoing expense to the applicant.
2/9/10	COE permit issued under condition that Real Estate Division of COE gives authorization	COE	Project was believed to be in an area where the COE had real estate interests and requires a Real Estate Division authorization	Prior to issuance of COE permit, McIlhenny was asked by a request from NMFS through the COE to redesign the water control structures to include a fisheries slot. McIlhenny refused stating that NMFS had over one year to make this request. To accommodate this request would have required revisions to all permit plats and to the Coastal Use Permit causing further delays. The COE relented and issued the permit.
4/15/10	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Certification permit issued	LDQ	Water Quality Certificate issued	
7/29/10	North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant application		NAWCA grant application for construction of project could not be submitted until all permits had been acquired	

(COE) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; (EPA) Environmental Protection Agency; (FWS) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; (LDWF) Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries; (NMFS) National Marine Fisheries Service; (OCM) Office of Coastal Management



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**SYSTEMS APPROACH TO
GEOMORPHIC ENGINEERING**

Our coasts are at risk. SAGE offers a solution.

What is SAGE?

SAGE, the Systems Approach to Geomorphic Engineering, is a community of practice dedicated to protecting our coastlines. Coastal areas are home to more than half of the U.S. population, rich in natural resources, and vital to our economy. Increasingly, shorelines are subject to intense storms, floods, loss of habitat, and sea-level rise.

SAGE promotes the use of both green (natural and nature-based) and gray (hard, structural engineering) approaches to make our coasts more resilient. Our systems approach addresses large areas of shoreline to foster thriving communities and flourishing natural ecosystems.

Who is involved?

SAGE is a collaborative effort among federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and both private business and engineering firms. Initially envisioned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency, participation continues to grow.

Our partners include:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Federal Emergency Management Agency
American Society of Civil Engineers
Center for Coastal Resources Management,
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

The Nature Conservancy
The Conservation Fund
The Water Institute of the Gulf
University of Rhode Island
Coastal States Organization
...and more.

Goals & Principles

- Advance large-scale solutions to coastal resiliency
- Collaborate with both public and private sectors
- Apply lessons learned both domestically and internationally
- Develop innovative techniques and solutions to adapt coasts
- Understand impacts on people and nature along coastline
- Share science, tools and demos to inform best practices
- Protect and enhance natural coastal features when appropriate

www.ccrm.vims.edu/sage



Resilient Shorelines. Thriving Communities.

Why SAGE?

Communities are looking for more effective and affordable approaches to coastal protection. Shared understanding calls for a change in existing coastal management due to increasing development and population, threats to natural habitat, projections for stronger and more frequent coastal storms, rising sea levels, and growing fiscal constraints at all levels of government. We need affordable, integrated solutions that still meet the objectives of building community and ecosystem resilience. The collaborative approach of SAGE provides the answer.

What is the Focus of SAGE?

The focus of SAGE is to provide science, policy, and management resources regarding coastal resiliency. The community of practice will help to: share what we know about utilizing natural systems to protect against coastal hazards; identify what more we need to learn about greener techniques; and promote innovative, hybrid approaches that combine green with gray solutions. Ultimately, the objective is to offer an economical option to sustain a healthy environment and create a resilient shoreline.

How Will SAGE Be Funded?

SAGE has a diverse funding strategy. SAGE will promote and implement new, or adjust current, policy mechanisms, regulations and administrative processes; develop better information on the effectiveness and benefit of investment in system-wide solutions; and find new financial partners. While SAGE is a community of practice and not a grant-making organization, it can provide a forum to leverage resources for coastal projects that incorporate hybrid approaches.

How Can I Become Involved?

SAGE is always seeking the opportunity for interested parties to share expertise and views in a forum designed to explore collective knowledge about hybrid coastal engineering and softer approaches to coastal protection. To learn more, visit www.ccrm.vims.edu/sage/ or e-mail Charley Chesnutt at Charles.B.Chesnutt@usace.army.mil



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of Engineers®**

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Presentation given at both the ASBPA New Orleans Conference and the ASBPA's 1st Dune Challenges on Developed Coastlines Workshop entitled "South Padre Island's Efforts of Balancing Natural Functioning Landforms and Tourism". (Trevino)

ITEM BACKGROUND

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____
Approved by Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____

Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Update and discussion regarding the ASBPA's 1st Dune Challenges on Developed Coastlines Workshop. (Trevino)

ITEM BACKGROUND

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____
Approved by Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____

Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

Motivation:

Hurricane Sandy's landfall on the northeast coast in 2012 resulted in an observable relationship between the amount of damage a community realized and the strength of that community's dune system. However in some cases, dunes have only recently been included as a design feature in beach nourishment projects, and are often a point of contention for residents and visitors wishing to have easy access and a clear view of beaches for recreation purposes. More research and improved communication between the research community, government agencies, local communities, and private industry are needed to identify optimal dune management approaches.

As such, this workshop aimed to:

- 1) identify the challenges involved in building and managing dunes on developed coasts,
- 2) assess the extent to which scientific knowledge can be applied to the management community, and
- 3) bridge the apparent gap between the research of coastal scientists and engineers and the needs of coastal management practitioners.

It was centered on three themes as they relate to the human role in creating and managing dunes:

- 1) dune evolution, coastal resilience, and recovery processes;
- 2) dune changes and benefits provided during storms; and
- 3) the role of dunes as a part of the ecosystem as a whole.

Prioritized Resource Management Challenges:

- Education/communication
- Balancing needs of stakeholders compromise
- Dune function/how to build in dynamic environment
- Systems approach to adaptive management
- Funding & resources
- Sediment supply, erosion, SLR

Prioritized Research Needs:

- Understand processes on developed & undeveloped coasts (sand exchange b/w beaches/dunes, erosion/recovery)
- Quantify and convey social/economic impacts to natural/human system
- Predictive models (e.g., short- & long-term adaptive mgmt, social data)
- Manual/guidance for community
 - incorporate competing needs into design for different coastal systems
- Vegetation metrics to design/indicate health
- Integrate social science into decision making

Prioritized Infrastructure Needs:

- Coupled physical/ecological short- & long-term observations
- Community of practice to provide information clearinghouse/comparative case studies
- Compile & disseminate big data
- Social science data
- Leveraging facilities/resources

Dune Management Challenges on Developed Coasts Workshop

Hilton Garden Inn,
5353 N Virginia Dare Trail, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949
October 26-28, 2015
AGENDA

October 26: Coastal Dunes Field Trip (Optional – sold out)

Objective

Begin the meeting by visiting a variety of developed dune systems in the area to set the tone, serve as an icebreaker, and inform the subsequent discussions.

Approach

A tour of a variety of dunes along the northern Outer Banks from Duck to South Nags Head, beginning at the FRF for a tour of the facility and discussion of the variety in dune morphologies present on the FRF property. Other stops will include: an erosional hotspot region in Duck that experienced severe erosion and property damage during Hurricane Sandy; Kitty Hawk, where a moderate Nor'Easter recently decimated the foredune and washed out NC 12; recently nourished Nags Head to discuss the interaction of the beach nourishment project and homeowner's property with respect to dunes. The field trip will identify both science and management challenges with dunes on developed coastlines.

Field trip leaders: Kate Brodie, USACE ERDC Coastal & Hydraulics Laboratory and Bill Birkemeier

1-5:30 pm

Hilton Garden Inn, Kitty Hawk, NC – transportation provided

October 27: Defining the Challenges of Dune Management

Objective

Learn about challenges involved in building and managing dunes on developed coasts from different perspectives: academic, government, research, local managers. Define conflicts, solutions, and societal implications

Approach

Use break-out groups to synthesize the different perspectives' challenges

Session Chair: Kate Brodie, USACE ERDC Coastal & Hydraulics Laboratory

8:20 Welcome

Chairman, Robert L. (Bob) Woodard, Dare County Board of Commissioners, NC

8:40 Statement of objectives

Jeff Lillycrop, Technical Director, Civil Works RD&T

Nicole Elko, American Shore and Beach Preservation Association

9:00 Wind, Sand, and Dunes

Douglas Sherman, University of Alabama

9:20 Opportunities and Constraints of Enhancing Dunes on Developed Shores

Karl Nordstrom, Rutgers

9:40 Design and maintenance of coastal dunes for flood risk management: a UK perspective

Kenneth Pye, Southampton University

10:00 Break

Session Chair: Hilary Stockdon, USGS Coastal Marine Geology Program

- 10:20 Dunes as nature-based infrastructure: The ecogeomorphology of dune systems
Candice Piercy, USACE ERDC Environmental Laboratory
- 10:40 State Regulations/Policies affecting dune management
Jason Pinchback, Texas General Land Office
- 11:00 Dune Performance during Hurricane Sandy: Findings and Recommendations from the USACE Performance Evaluation Study
Donald Cresitello, USACE New York District
- 11:20 Challenges with evaluating and mapping dunes for the NFIP
Jonathan Westcott and Tucker Mahoney, FEMA
- 11:40 Dunes as infrastructure in damage/loss estimation models
Dan Cox, Oregon State University
- 12:00 **Lunch, Hilton Garden Inn**

Session Chair: Julie Rosati, USACE ERDC Coastal & Hydraulics Laboratory

- 1:15 Reconvene
- 1:20 Results of Local and State Coastal Managers' Survey
Kim McKenna, Delaware DNREC, and Roberta Thuman, Town of Nags Head
- 1:40 Dune Management Challenges in the Outer Banks of NC:
Nags Head 2011 Nourishment
David Ryan, Town of Nags Head & Haiqing Kaczowski, Coastal Science & Engineering
Integrating Dunes into Project Design in Dare County, NC
Gary Perry, Mayor Town of Kitty Hawk & Ken Willson, CB&I
- 2:20 Lessons Learned from Providing Dune Vegetation Services to Communities
Chuck Kocur, EarthBalance
- 2:40 **Break**
- 3:00 South Padre Island efforts towards balancing natural functioning landforms and tourism
Reuben Trevino, City of South Padre Island, TX
- 3:20 A Case Study in Applying Natural Resource Management for Coastal Resiliency: The City of Miami Beach Coastal Dune Management Plan
Margarita Wells, City of Miami Beach, FL
- 3:40 Charge to breakout groups:
Identify the challenges involved in building and managing dunes on developed coasts:
- *What are the challenges in managing dunes on developed coasts?*
 - *How do/have we move(d) forward – lessons learned and potential solutions (e.g., obtain key natural functions on managed dunes)?*
- Product:** List of top 3 resource management challenges*
- 3:50 – 4:50 Breakout groups

5:00 – 5:30 Report out from breakout groups

6:00 **Welcome reception, Hilton Garden Inn, Pier House**

October 28: Science to Address Dune Management Challenges

Objective

Assess the extent to which scientific knowledge can be applied to the challenges from Day 1

Approach

Learn how researchers are quantifying dune morphology and the ecosystem value of dunes. In breakout groups, discuss research needs, scientific management solutions, and community needs.

Session Chair: Karl Nordstrom, Rutgers

8:20 Dune response to Hurricane Sandy and recovery along the NJ shoreline

Stewart Farrell, Stockton University Coastal Research Center

8:40 Quantifying Coastal Sand Dunes for Vulnerability Assessments

Hilary Stockdon, USGS Coastal Marine Geology Program

9:00 Quantifying dune morphological evolution/state on storm to annual time scales

Kate Brodie, USACE ERDC Coastal & Hydraulics Laboratory

9:20 New technologies and methods for quantifying beach-dune morphodynamics and sediment budgets

Ian Walker, University of Victoria

9:40 Post-storm dune recovery as a control on barrier island resilience and management

Chris Houser, Texas A&M University

10:00 **Break**

Session Chair: Kim McKenna, Delaware DNREC

10:20 The role of vegetation in determining dune morphology and exposure to sea level rise and storm-induced coastal hazards: a US Pacific Northwest perspective

Peter Ruggiero, Oregon State University

10:40 Vegetation controls on the maximum size of coastal dunes and the role of biophysical interactions in determining dune/island state

Laura Moore, University of North Carolina

11:00 The promise of vegetation for shore protection

Rusty Feagin, Texas A&M University

11:20 NJ Sea Grant's new "Dune It Right" Manual

Amy Williams, Stevens Institute of Technology

11:40 A framework for addressing endangered species challenges

Craig Fischenich, USACE ERDC Environmental Lab

12:00 **Lunch, Hilton Garden Inn**

Charge to breakout groups:

Assess the extent to which scientific knowledge can be applied to the challenges from Day 1:

Materials: List of top resource management challenges

- What research questions need to be answered to allow for science-based management solutions?
- What research infrastructure is needed (observations, models)?

Product: List of top 3 research needs

Session Chair: Nicole Elko, ASBPA

1:15 Breakout groups

2:30 Report out from breakout groups

3:10 **Break**

3:30 Large group discussion charge:

Determine pathways to science-based management goals

Materials: Top resource management challenges and top research needs

- Do challenges and research needs align for improved management?
- What common tools are needed (engineering guidance, community manuals)?
- What our roles (state & federal agencies, academics, community managers)?
How do we foster coordination?

Products: Establishment of a technical community to promote and advance best dune management practices on a national scale. Meeting report writing team.

4:30 **Adjourn**

4:30 – 5:30 Technology Challenge Grant Information Session (*optional*)

ASBPA will hold a competition to offer several small (~\$30K) grants to directly support academic research. The grants will be awarded to those proposals which investigate one of the top challenges identified during the workshop. Proposals will be due December 1, 2015 with announcement of results before the end of the year. The performance period will be one year with an expectation that the awardees will present preliminary findings at ASBPA's annual meeting in New Jersey during a dedicated session in October 2016 and publish results in a dedicated issue of Shore and Beach.

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Safra	Altman	USACE ERDC
Spicer	Bak	USACE-CHL-FRF
Rob	Barron	Coastal Management & Consulting
Natalie	Bell	Texas General Land Office
George	Bonner	US Coast Guard
Todd	Bridges	USACE ERDC
Derek	Brockbank	ASBPA
Kate	Brodie	USACE ERDC
Jenna	Brown	USGS
Brian	Caufield	CDM Smith
Andy	Coburn	WCU PSDS
Nick	Cohn	Oregon State University
Ian	Conery	East Carolina University/UNC Coastal Studies Ins
Reide	Corbett	ECU
James	Cottrell Jr	Pine Island Homeowners Association
Dan	Cox	Oregon State University
Donald	Cresitello	USACE
Sandy	Cross	Town of Duck
William	Curtis	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Elsemarie	deVries	University of North Carolina
Steve	Elgar	WHOI
Nicole	Elko	ASBPA
Stewart	Farrell	Stockton University Coastal Research Center
Rusty	Feagin	Texas A&M University
Craig	Fischenich	USACE ERDC
Ashley	Frey	USACE-CHL
Timu	Gallien	Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Thomas	Gay	City of Virginia Beach
Evan	Goldstein	UNC-Chapel Hill
Daniel	Govoni	NC Division of Coastal Management
Brandon	Grant	Moffatt & Nichol
Jessica	Gray	UNCW
Chris	Houser	Texas A & M University
Frank	Jennings	NC Division of Coastal Management
Brad	Johnson	USACE ERDC
Haiqing	Kaczkowski	Coastal Science & Engineering
Timothy	Kana	Coastal Science & Engineering
Donny	King	Better Beaches OBX
Charles	Kocur	EarthBalance
Todd	Krafft	Town of Nags Head
Christopher	Layton	Town of Duck
Jeff	Lillycrop	USACE
Joe	Long	USGS
Jordan	Loran	State of Maryland, Dept of Natural Resources
Greg	Loy	Town of Kill Devil Hills
Rex	Luzader	Pine Island Homeowners Association

Coraggio	Maglio	USACE ERDC CHL
Tucker	Mahoney	FEMA
Pamela	Mason	CCRM/ VIMS
Aaron	McCall	The Nature Conservancy
Terence	McGean	Town of Ocean City Maryland
Kim	McKenna	Delaware DNREC
Brina	Montoya	North Carolina State University
Laura	Moore	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Mike	Muglia	UNC CSI
Karl	Nordstrom	Rutgers University
Bobby	Outten	Dare County
Meg	Palmsten	Naval Research Laboratory
Rachel	Patrick	Town of Southern Shores
Katie	Peek	WCU PSDS
Gary	Perry	Kitty Hawk, Mayor
Candice	Piercy	USACE ERDC
Jason	Pinchback	State of Texas/Texas General Land Office
david	powers	hr wallingford
Kenneth	Pye	Kenneth Pye Associates Ltd
John	Ratzenberger	Town of Nags Head
Britt	Raubenhiemer	WHOI
Katherine	Renken	USC Baruch Institute
Bianca	Reo	University of Pennsylvania
Ken	Richardson	NC Division of Coastal Management
Spencer	Rogers	NC Sea Grant
Mayra A	Roman-Rivera	University of South Carolina
Julie	Rosati	USACE-CHL
Peter	Ruggiero	Oregon State University
David	Ryan	Town of Nags Head
Beth	Sciaudone	NC State University
Douglas	Sherman	University of Alabama
Jonathan	Simm	HR Wallingford
Matt	Slagel	SC DHEC-OCRM
Nick	Spore	USACE-CHL-FRF
Hilary	Stockdon	USGS
David	Stout	Broward County EPCRD
Roberta	Thuman	Town of Nags Head
Christopher	Timpson	TenCate
Reuben	Trevino	City of South Padre Island
Ian	Walker	University of Victoria, Canada
Denise	Walsh	Town of Duck
J.P.	Walsh	East Carolina Univ. & UNC CSI
Anna	Wargula	WHOI
Brett	Warner	Town of Bethany Beach
Jeff	Waters	Coastal & Hydraulics Lab - FRF
Margarita	Wells	City of Miami Beach
Jonathan	Westcott	FEMA

Amy
Ken
Chris
Jessica
Bob
Linda

Williams
Willson
Wilson
Winterwerp
Woodard
York

Stevens Institute of Technology
CB&I
Pine Island Homeowners Association

Dare County Commission, Chair
National Park Service

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Update, discussion and possible action regarding The Pearl walkover project and public easement encroachment with the property's trash compactor. (Nixon)

ITEM BACKGROUND

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____
Approved by Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____

Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Discussion & possible action on damage to dunes after recent tide surges and plans for future necessary restoration efforts. (Giles)

ITEM BACKGROUND

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____
Approved by Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____

Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Update, discussion and possible action regarding:

- A. Potential funding options for the approved bay access project at Corral Street. (Metty)
- B. Purchase of land for bay access project at Corral Street. (Giles)

ITEM BACKGROUND

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____
Approved by Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____

Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Discussion and action to recommend to the City Council approval to attend and necessary budget amendment regarding Reuben Trevino's attendance and panel participation at the 2016 NCER (National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration) in Coral Gables, Florida on April 18-22, 2016. (Munarriz)

ITEM BACKGROUND

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____
Approved by Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____

Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

Reuben Trevino

From: Collins, Georganna B. <GCollins@ene.com>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 11:29 AM
To: Reuben Trevino
Cc: Barry Patel; Paul Munarriz; William DiLibero
Subject: National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration 2016

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Mr. Trevino, I have heard some tremendous compliments about your work and the efforts of the City on dune restoration. I am putting together a session for NCER conference to be held in Coral Gables, Florida April 18-22, 2016. Session would be on Large Scale Ecosystem Restoration-How we do it in Texas. I would like to include you, the City's efforts with others on the dune restoration activities you have been involved with. I think it would be a great opportunity to show case what efforts are being made in south Texas on ecosystem restoration. Would you like to be part of our session?

I am including Kris Bensen from NOAA to talk about how NRDA supports restoration, Ed Russo from USACE Galveston District on funding strategies and their Engineering With Nature Initiative supporting large scale restoration in Texas, and Ray Newby of Texas General Land Office would be presenting on the coastal master planning as it would relate to restoration and resiliency. I would act as session organizer and moderator.

I am a Chief Restoration Specialist with Ecology and Environment, Inc. in Houston with comprehensive, 30-year practice experience in rehabilitation of disturbed areas from inland riverine freshwater fens and bogs, bald cypress swamps to estuarine intertidal salt marshes, oyster reefs, and coastal bird islands serving with multiple affiliations including Gulf of Mexico Alliance Sediment Management Working Group and Habitat Restoration Priority Issue Team, COPRI Beneficial Use Subcommittee and COPRI Wetland Engineering Subcommittee, American Society of Landscape Architects, Reclamation Committee, American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation, Technical Division Coordinator, and TNC's America's Watershed Initiative. I provide a range of services from site planning to minimize environmental impacts and integrates natural landscape features, particularly within the coastal zone, with experience in project planning for sustainable development; river and stream restoration; mined land rehabilitation; master planning through to construction oversight and post-construction monitoring associated with both large and small scale projects.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope I can count on your participation in advance.

Georganna Collins, RLA
Ecology and Environment, Inc.
2 Riverway, Suite 625
Houston, Texas 77065

713-208-3217

Transportation:

- Southwest Airlines to Ft. Lauderdale
 - Monday April 18 departure, Friday 22nd return (no change ticket) \$440
 - Free 24 hour shuttle from airport

Hotel:

- Marriot \$121+ tax per night 4 nights \$484 + tax
- The NCER discounted room rate of \$121 is well below the \$144 maximum federal per diem for Broward County.

Meals:

- Travel Monday and Friday:
 - 75% of \$64 per day
 - \$96.00
- Conference Tuesday – Thursday
 - \$64 per day
 - \$192.00

Registration:

- Registration fees will be between \$450-475 for government and non-profit attendees

Total Cost for Conference: \$1,687

Overview

NCER is an interdisciplinary conference on large-scale ecosystem restoration presenting state-of-the-art science and engineering, planning and policy in a partnership environment. The first NCER, held in Orlando, FL (2004), led to successful conferences in Kansas City, MO (2007), Los Angeles, CA (2009), Baltimore, MD (2011), and Chicago (2013). NCER brings together scientists, engineers, policy makers, planners and partners from across the country actively involved in large-scale ecosystem restoration.

Since its inception, NCER has become the preeminent conference on ecosystem restoration in the US. Today, we are in a new era, where resources are tight. Renewed vigilance on the use of public funding requires that we demonstrate progress in achieving restoration goals, clearly prove its value, efficiently and effectively share lessons learned and provide better coordination among all stakeholders ensuring the best use of future funding to achieve results.

Purpose

Centuries of unsustainable activities have damaged and/or eliminated the freshwater, marine, and terrestrial environments that provide vital services to our economies, societal values, and support a diversity of wildlife and plants. This conference aims to provide a venue for ecosystem restoration professionals to convene over efforts to reverse environmental degradation by renewing and/or restoring degraded or destroyed ecosystems and habitats.

Progress in restoring various ecosystems and habitat types has been made around the nation in the 11 years since the first NCER conference was held. NCER 2016 is a forum to share results on what restoration fundamentals and practices have worked and bring new focus on those challenges that remain. It will also allow for collaboration across agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, bringing together in one location the nation's leading experts in ecosystem restoration to forge new insights and advances to restore and protect ecosystems and habitats nationwide.

The conference is designed to bring together scientists and engineers, policy makers, planners and partners who are actively involved in or affected by all aspects of ecosystem restoration regardless of project or program size. Participants will interact in an interdisciplinary setting to summarize and review cutting edge science, to create and maintain effective partnerships, and to leverage resources.

Who Should Attend and Why

A premier gathering of ecosystem restoration professionals from across the country, NCER is a collaborative effort and we invite you to come aboard.

This conference provides an unsurpassed opportunity for networking and exchange of the latest scientific and practical information related to ecosystem restoration. This nationally attended program entails five days of presentations in five program tracks, workshops, poster sessions, field trips and coffee-house discussions dedicated to current topics in ecosystem restoration.

In just a few days you'll get months' worth of valuable technical training, education and networking. Piecing together an equivalent experience would keep you out of the office much longer and cost much more.

When you meet face-to-face with others working on similar projects, you'll build more interactive, cooperative relationships and realize greater savings through increased collaboration.

Attendees will include:

Scientists, Engineers, Managers, Policy Makers, Federal, State, and Local Agency Personnel, Water Resource Managers and Engineers, Environmental Consultants, Environmental Policy Managers, Researchers, Hydrological Modelers, University Students, Environmental Interest Groups

Air

\$439.46

ITINERARY

Travel Date	Flight Segments	Flight Summary
DEPART APR 18 MON	06:35 AM Depart Harlingen, TX (HRL) on Southwest Airlines Flight #1705 	Monday, April 18, 2016 Travel Time 6 h 10 m (1 stop, includes 1 plane change) Wanna Get Away
	07:35 AM Arrive in Houston (Hobby), TX (HOU)  WiFi available	
	10:25 AM Change  to Southwest Airlines in Houston (Hobby), TX (HOU) Flight #4075 	
	01:45 PM Arrive in Ft. Lauderdale, FL (FLL)  WiFi available	
RETURN APR 22 FRI	07:05 PM Depart Ft. Lauderdale, FL (FLL) on Southwest Airlines Flight #927  <i>Stops: Houston, TX</i>	Friday, April 22, 2016 Travel Time 4 h 45 m (1 stop, no plane change) Wanna Get Away
	10:50 PM Arrive in Harlingen, TX (HRL)  WiFi available	

What you need to know to travel:

Check-in: Be sure to arrive at the departure gate with your boarding pass at least 10 minutes before your scheduled departure time. Otherwise, your reserved space may be cancelled and you won't be eligible for denied booking compensation.

No Show Policy: If you are not planning to travel on any portion of this itinerary, please cancel your reservation at least 10 minutes prior to scheduled departure of the flight. For tickets purchased on or after May 10, 2013 and travel beginning September 13, 2013, Customers who fail to cancel reservations for a Wanna Get Away or DING! fare segment at least ten (10) minutes prior to travel and who do not board the flight will be considered a no show, and all remaining, unused funds on this reservation will be forfeited, including Business Select and Anytime funds.

PRICE: ADULT

Trip	Routing	Fare Type View Fare Rules	Fare Details	Quantity	Total
Depart	HRL-HOU-FLL	Wanna Get Away Excellent Value	- No Change Fees (applicable fare difference applies) - Reusable Funds (nontransferable - no name changes allowed) - Nonrefundable unless purchased with Points	1	\$221.98

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2015

NAME & TITLE: Reuben Trevino, Coastal Resources & Parks Administrator

DEPARTMENT: Coastal Resources and Parks Administration

ITEM

Discussion & possible action regarding November 23, 2015 regular meeting. (Trevino)

ITEM BACKGROUND

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____
Approved by Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____

Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS