

COAST BUILDERS COALITION

AUGUST 2010

NEWSLETTER



COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY AUGUST 18

Garret Graves was very concerned about the interpretations of the oil spill budget developed by the federal government and the representations that 75% of the oil in the gulf was gone. Garret spent some time reviewing the methodology behind the budget and emphasizing there was much more than 25% of the 4.9 million barrels of oil leaked that was still in the gulf.

Kirk Rhinehart provided an update on the development of the 2012 Master Plan. He presented a timeline for development with key milestones being a mid-2011 project prioritization effort and an early 2012 release of the draft Master Plan.

Lou Buatt discussed the draft revisions to the Coastal Zone Boundary and the

methodology for arriving at the draft map. The only significant changes in the boundary will occur in south central Louisiana, where the line will be moved significantly north. Mr. Buatt also discussed the introduction of an intergovernmental coordination area that would extend further north than the coastal zone boundary and allow the state to address impacts to the coastal zone.

Jerome Zeringue detailed the Hurricane Protection System Peer Review Process. This new system is being used extensively around the New Orleans levee system, with ten projects having been selected to go through this process. However, the state is concerned the Corps of Engineers' administration of this process has been lacking in rigor in certain areas.

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SPOTLIGHT ON ROYAL ENGINEERS



With strategic locations based throughout the Gulf Region, Royal Engineers and Consultants, L.L.C. is a minority owned consulting firm specializing in delivering professional civil and coastal engineering, environmental compliance, and permitting services. Royal is based out of Lafayette, LA and the Greater New Orleans area with support offices in Cameron, LA, and Mobile, AL. With this range of coverage, Royal is capable of servicing industry, government and the private sector across the gulf coast. Royal's personnel have over 50 years of combined coastal engineering and permitting experience, which includes but is not limited to barrier island restoration, marsh creation, shoreline protection, freshwater introduction, terrace design, and ridge restoration. Royal has also been heavily involved in hurricane recovery throughout the Greater New Orleans area and in Cameron Parish. Our recovery projects include levee construction and program management of infrastructure replacement and repair. Federal, state, and local officials have made a tremendous effort to formulate synergistic coastal restoration and

protection plans for Coastal Louisiana and beyond. Royal has long-standing relationships with governmental decision makers and is proud to play an active role in advocating these long-term strategic plans to enhance the sustainability of our home region.



The Natural Resources Damage Assessment Process

The work that is being conducted under the Preliminary Assessment Phase of the NRDA is being done cooperatively with BP. The federal trustees involved include National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Federal Works Agency (FWA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and National Park Service (NPS). The state level trustees involved include Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration (OCPR), Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), and Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO). The trustees work includes collecting time sensitive data and reviewing scientific literature about the released substance to determine the severity of the injury. Scientists are looking at the extent of the injury to sensitive areas such as the wetlands, marshes, oyster beds and other relative areas. Economists play a role in the Preliminary Assessment Phase by assessing present and potential economic losses that were caused by the spill. Once the Preliminary Assessment Phase is complete the next step is to move into step two, Injury Assessment and Restoration Planning.

To read additional information about NOAA's actions with the oil spill [click here](#), or you can visit www.darrp.noaa.gov



Secretary Mabus addresses the community of Houma

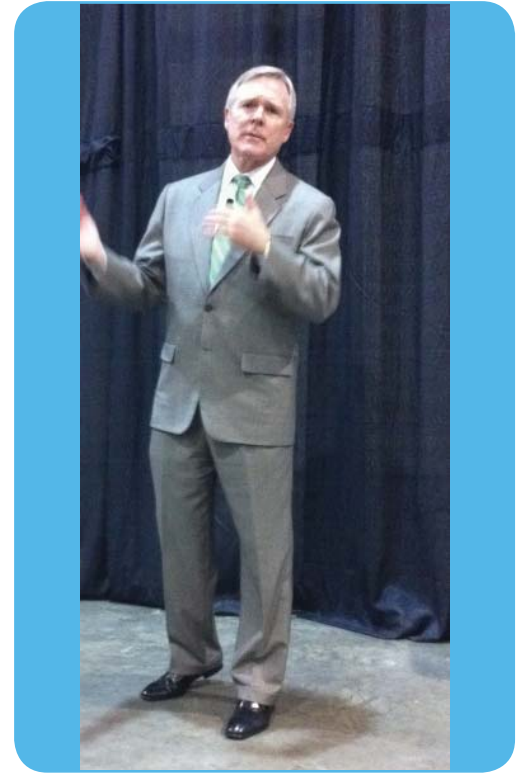
Navy Secretary Mabus recently visited Gulf Coast communities. He visited Houma on August 5, 2010. The purpose was to evaluate the community's wants and needs in order to produce the appropriate plan for the oil spill clean-up efforts. "The plan needs to have the input of the community of the gulf," said Secretary Mabus.

Those in attendance were invited to pose questions and concerns with where the plan will head in the future and what environmental gains and losses, if any, can be expected. Overall, the majority of the questions focused on funding for the plan. One community member addressed the Morganza levee protection system and lamented the lack of involvement from the federal government and suggested the system

is "broken" on the federal end. Mabus responded that the average time for the Corps to complete a project is 40 years when factoring in appropriations from congress. His solution to this is to move fast by avoiding the use of funds that must be appropriated.

Mabus expressed that BP has announced \$500 million are to be used for research into the impact of the spill on marine life, \$30 million having already been spent at that point in time. He ensured that in meeting with local universities in each coastal state, consortiums have been formed to ensure a common direction.

For additional information on what was discussed at the meeting click [here](#).



Governor Jindal Outlines Coastal Restoration



In response to the oil spill, Governor Jindal has unveiled an "Agenda to Revitalize Louisiana." This agenda includes a section on coastal restoration. The main component of this section is the implementation of the \$9 billion in coastal restoration projects that have already been authorized by the U.S. Congress for construction. These authorizations include 18 coastal restoration, hurricane protection and fresh-water diversion projects. Governor Jindal is looking to a variety of funding mechanisms for these projects.

- First – Louisiana is asking for a commitment of \$250 million from previously-appropriated mitigation funds for hurricane protection repairs related to Hurricane Katrina to be dedicated to key restoration projects immediately.
- Second – The state is requesting an immediate investment from BP to begin addressing Natural Resource Damage Assessment remediation actions through coastal wetlands recovery and restoration.

- Third – The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act funding should be moved up to the current fiscal year rather than have the federal government wait until 2017 to share these funds with the Gulf states.
- Fourth – Part of funding these authorized coastal protection projects should also come from annual federal resource agency funds for construction of the above projects.
- Fifth – Under the Clean Water Act, BP is liable for fines attributable to the discharge of oil into the environment/water. The state anticipates that the fines associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill will total into the billions of dollars. These funds from BP could be put towards "Supplemental Environmental Projects" which would include coastal restoration projects. The state has requested that BP and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency work together with the state to develop a supplemental environmental project program.

Coast Builders Coalition Goes to Washington D.C.

The Coast Builders Coalition will make its third annual trip to Washington, DC, September 14-16. Past trips have been very informative and have provided good exposure for the organization and its members. Now is the time to make your reservations.

Hampton Inn Washington, DC- Convention Center
901 6th Street., NW,
1-202-842-2500

DRAFT AGENDA

Tuesday, September 14

5-7pm

Happy Hour

7-9pm

“Working Dinner” to discuss agenda and talking points

Wednesday, September 15

9am-12pm

Rounds on Capitol Hill with La. Delegation and key Gulf Coast members

1-5pm

Rounds on Capitol Hill with La. Delegation and key Gulf Coast members

5-7pm

Coast Builders Coalition Reception for congressional and federal staff

Thursday, September 16

10am

Department of Interior meeting

11:30am-12:30pm

Corps meeting

Process of the Construction of Sand Berms

Construction of the \$360 million sand berms off Louisiana coast is about half-way finished. When complete, the project will have built about 35 miles of sand berms. Over a dozen dredges are involved in the massive project. Despite regulatory and weather delays, most notably from two tropical depressions/hurricanes that roared past the sand berm site, significant progress has been made in a short amount of time.

There have been several thousand pounds of oil and oily debris collected from the berms to date. With reports of oil below the surface of the water, it is expected the berms will be an effective barrier to this oil moving closer to the shore. A number of Coast Builders Coalition members are participating in the project including Shaw, Great Lakes, Manson and Weeks Marine. To see a recent article on the sand berm construction click [HERE](#).

