

# COAST BUILDERS COALITION

NOVEMBER 2009

## NEWSLETTER



### LANDRIEU ASSEMBLES COASTAL LEADERS TO DISCUSS VISION FOR FUTURE

Senator Mary Landrieu hosted a day-long planning session on October 24th to discuss a vision for securing a sustainable coast for Louisiana. The session brought together leading academics, not-for profits (including the Coast Builders Coalition), and government officials. The session included a presentation from a section head at Deltares, a foundation in the Netherlands with over 900 scientists that serves as a water management center of excellence in that country. The session also included a history of coastal restoration and protection efforts in the State along with an update from Garret Graves on the major initiatives currently being undertaken by the State.

After establishing this base of information, the group was asked to discuss their vision for saving and protecting the coast.

Comments centered on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the pre-construction process for coastal projects. A number of participants discussed the need to find an alternative to the Corps' current pre-construction process. Senator Landrieu is considering legislation that would create a new entity that would be charged with implementing some or all of the federal dollars directed to the Louisiana coast.

Also discussed was the need to develop and communicate an ultimate plan for a sustainable coast and the desire to establish a similar center for excellence to Deltares in Louisiana. Senator Landrieu expects the group will meet again in about 2 months to follow-up on the items discussed.

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

STATE OF THE COAST  
JUNE 8-10, 2010  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
BATON ROUGE RIVER CENTER  
FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
[CLICK HERE](#)

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HDCA is a licensed engineering firm in the States of Louisiana and Mississippi with professional engineers licensed in the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Ohio. Our Key personnel include: H. Davis Cole, P.E. – Managing Member/Principal Engineer, Sid E. Trouard, P.E. – Sr. Project Manager/New Orleans Regional Manager and Harold “Buster” Lyons, Jr., P.E. – Sr. Project Manager/Director of Business Development

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Construction progress of the North and South Florissant Drainage Pump Station Reconstruction Project in eastern St. Bernard Parish designed by HDCA

## Energy and Water Appropriations contain \$25 million

from the Daily Comet



Louisiana only secured about \$25 million in federal money for local hurricane protection and coastal projects in the Congressional Energy and Water Appropriations bill for 2010.

The bill includes \$5.8 million for general investigations for the Larose to Golden Meadow hurricane protection project.

To help pay for the preconstruction work on the Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration project, an additional \$17.9 million was approved. The project is an Army Corps of Engineers study of major coastal restoration projects including barrier islands and freshwater reintroductions from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. It was originally authorized through the federal Water Resources Development Act of 2007 bill.

The remainder of the funding is \$2.4 million for dredging and maintenance of the Houma Navigation Canal

For more information on the energy and water bill and to view the complete newspaper article online, click [here](#).

# Gulf States urges MMS to Promulgate Generous Regulations

Having issues with the Mineral Management Services (MMS) handling on the Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) regulations, the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas recently wrote a joint letter to Interior Secretary Salazar.

The letter asks for more clarity, certainty and stability in the regulations governing the revenue stream that will come from GOMESA. The State of Louisiana had already submitted comments on this matter back in 2008, requesting a number of revisions to the MMS regulations for 2007-2017. The revisions targeted the areas of the MMS' timing and methods, revenue received from OCS from fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2055, rental revenues and user fees, and bonus and royalty credits.

Few of the state's requested revisions were incorporated into the MMS final rule. Most significant is that the MMS rules did not provide the gulf states access to as much of the revenue stream as had been expected, thereby driving down the estimates of how much each state would realize on an annual basis. In particular, MMS' royalty-in-kind program may mean that millions of barrels of oil are not sold thereby generating revenues, but instead put in the nation's strategic oil reserve. Also, the critical regulations for 2017 to 2055 have yet to be promulgated, adding tremendous uncertainty to the revenue stream and crippling any efforts to bond the revenues beyond 2017.

The States requested MMS

to review and revise all of the rules to activate the full benefits that can be obtained by GOMESA.

To read the article in full, click [here](#).



## State Pushing for Expedited Coastal Impact Assistance Program Grants

Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Alaska, wrote a joint letter the Director of the Minerals Management Service (MMS) concerning the implementation of the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) under the direction of the MMS.

Approximately \$726 million should have been given to the States of Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas by this time, but less than \$100 million has been actually disbursed.

The states complained that the MMS grant approval process has been continually changing throughout the three years of the program, causing excessive delays and unnecessary administrative expenses. The following suggestions were made:

1. The grant process should be eliminated. If not eliminated, MMS should, at a minimum, revisit the grant process to streamline and expedite the approval process.

2. A consistent and uniform set of guidelines that allow universities and non-profits, and sub-grantees, should be maintained.
3. Acquisition/conservation easement CIAP projects to non-profits should be allowed.
4. The December 2010 deadline for submitting grant applications should be extended to reflect the realities of the length of time it is taking MMS to approve state plans amendments and grant awards.

An article in The Advocate discussed how Louisiana's CIAP plan was the first approved by MMS about two years ago and how the State has received \$96 million to date. However, the State is waiting on \$61.3 million for grant proposals that have already been submitted and another \$312.5 million is available to Louisiana for grant proposals not submitted.

To view the article in The Advocate, click [here](#). For more information on the letter written to the state MMS, click [here](#).



# DNR PROMULGATES NEW REGULATIONS ON DREDGED SEDIMENT

New rules on dredged sediment will require any project that needs a coastal use permit that involves dredging of 25,000 or more cubic yards of material to implement one of four options: Create their own restoration project using the dredged material, donate the material to an existing federal, state or local project, build a restoration project at a different location with the same amount of sediment or pay into a fund that will pay for future restoration work. The state estimates that about 3 million cubic yards of

dredged material will be available annually for these kinds of projects.

The new regulations are an effort to improve on the state's current record for using dredged sediment. In the past five years, only 22 percent of restoration projects tried to use the dredged sediment material. These new regulations will not apply to Corps' projects, but the state is pushing the Corps to try and use more of the 58 million cubic yards of dirt dredged by the Corps each year in Louisiana.



## Recent Corps Awards

Contract	Contract Awarded	Award Amount	Contractor
ARRA- Calcasieu River and Pass, Fore-shore Dike Construction	18-sep-09	\$9,387,065.00	BIS Services, LLC
West Bank and Vicinity, Hurricane Protection Project, East and West of Algiers Canal, WBV-08, S&WB No. 13 Pump Station	24-Sep-09	\$29,984,860.50	BOH Bros. Construction, LLC
East of Harvey Canal Hurricane Protection Project, East and West of Algiers Canal, WBV-10 Fronthing Protection, Belle Chasse Pump Station No. 1	24-Sep-09	\$31,713,678.00	BOH Bros. Construction, LLC
WBV-13, West Bank and Vicinity, Hurricane Protection Project, East and West of Algiers Canal Fronthing Projection, New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board Pump Station No. 11	25-Sep-09	\$21,399,478.50	BOH Bros. Construction, LLC
Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana Project, Levee - Reach 1A from Cross Bayou to St. Rose and Gulf South Floodwall - Phase 2	28-Sep-09	\$9,052,369.05	Buck Town Contractor & Co.
West Bank and Vicinity, Hurricane Protection Project, East and West of Algiers Canal, WBV-07, Planters Pump Station	28-Sep-09	\$33,071,191.00	Kiewit Louisiana Co.
LPV 19.2, Reach 4, Third Enlargement, Phase 2	3-Sep-09	\$2,619,900.00	Phylway Construction
West Bank and Vicinity, Hurricane Protection Project, WBV-22 Westwego Floodwall	22-Oct-09	\$7,486,808.75	W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Co.