

COAST BUILDERS COALITION

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010



HIGHLIGHTS OF JANUARY 28TH COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION MEETING

Garret Graves said he expected the Louisiana coast to fare well in the President's FY 2011 budget. Garret indicated extensive discussions with the Administration have highlighted the importance of the Louisiana coast and how the President's budget last year gave Louisiana pennies compared to the \$1 billion to the Great Lakes and \$500 million for the Everglades. The President's budget was released on February 1st and about \$35 million was appropriated for the coast. Of that about \$19 million will go to construction and \$16 million towards studies.

OCPR gave an overview of the draft FY 2011 Annual Plan. The plan calls for about \$600 million in "state funds" for the coast. Public hearings on the plan will occur the week of 8th. For a good summary of the expected expenditures, read the Times-

Picayune article by here.

Garret Graves reported that renewed consideration will be given to bonding the oil and gas revenues scheduled to flow in earnest to the state in 2017. With word that MMS will issue regulations governing the revenues in the next 120 days, the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities is planning to engage consultants in the coming months to determine if bonding these revenues is feasible and advisable.

At the meeting the CPRA approved a study by RAND to forecast the future operation and maintenance obligations related to the coastal restoration and protection system. It is anticipated that local levee assessments will be insufficient to cover the increased costs of O and M.

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GET TO KNOW CYCLE CONSTRUCTION



Cycle Construction Company, LLC is a privately held construction and demolition firm located in Kenner, Louisiana. This June, Cycle will celebrate 10 successful years in business. The company specializes in construction management, site preparation, emergency response, heavy construction, demolition, and underground utilities. Collectively, our leadership team brings many years of experience in all phases of civil construction projects. Jonathan Kernion, one of the founders, is company President and manages the day-to-day operations of the firm.

Cycle Construction was founded upon the principle of respect and support of our team members. Our people's welfare and their success as industry professionals is the cornerstone of our competitiveness and growth. Under Cycle's structure, team members are encouraged to utilize their individual competencies and skills, and are treated with appreciation and respect for their input and commitment to client requirements.

Cycle Construction takes an aggressive approach to accurately bidding projects, and implementing effective cost controls. Through consistent management and industry knowledge we are better able to handle project challenges as they arise. As a firm, Cycle has completed an impressive list of projects, including many for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Resources Conservation Service, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the U.S. Navy, FEMA, most local municipalities, and many commercial clients. Our firm is exceptionally proficient with the contracting rules, regulations, and requirements of state and federal government agencies, and we have well developed quality control and safety plans in place for agency specific projects.

For more information visit our website at www.cycleconstruction.com

CURRENT PROJECT PHOTOS



Almedia/Walker LPV07d.2, USACE



Davis Pond 2nd Enlargement, USACE



Canal #17 Bank Stabilization, Jeff. Parish

Supporting Water Resources Funding in the Congressional JOBS Bill

The Coast Builders Coalition joined 43 other organizations in signing onto a letter to Nancy Pelosi supporting substantial funding for water resources projects in the JOBS bill being considered by Congress. The letter specifically asks for at least \$4.3 billion for the US Army Corps Civil Work budget.

Subsequently, the legislation passed the House of Representatives and included \$715 million for the Corps. \$30 million of this money is slated for water related environmental infrastructure assistance and \$30 million is slated for the MR and T program. The Senate is expected to take up this legislation early in 2010.

For link to letter click [here](#)



Senator Landrieu Hosts Second Coastal Roundtable

Senator Mary Landrieu hosted about 40 government officials, NGO representatives and academics in Lafayette on January 30th. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a new federal approach for coastal restoration and hurricane protection in Louisiana. The Senator emphasized that the current federal process for advancing water resources projects was inadequate and would not allow Louisiana to implement critical projects in a timely manner. The Senator and her staff set forth several different options for an improved system.

First, a Louisiana coastal division could be created in the Corps of Engineers or a related federal agency. Sec-

ond, the State of Louisiana could become the authority charged with advancing coastal projects, similar to the Federal Highway Program model. Finally, a new federal-state coastal authority could be established with an independent water institute attached to support research and planning.

The consensus of the group was that the final option, a new federal-state coastal authority, would be the best option. It was anticipated that the authority would be led by a federal-state commission and the core duties of the authority would be to develop a federal-state master plan, an implementation and budget plan, have oversight over all

projects in coastal Louisiana, have the ability to authorize coastal projects and the authority to influence the existing permitting procedures.

The importance of a water institute connected to this authority was also emphasized. This "center of excellence" would concentrate federal and state research and planning dollars in Louisiana, ensuring the ability of the government to develop solutions for the coast and allowing world-class water management knowledge creation in Louisiana.

At the end of the meeting, Senator Landrieu pledged to develop legislation, based on the feedback from the group, that would be introduced later in the year.

Upcoming Coast Builder Coalition Events

Coast Builders Coalition First Annual Skeet Shoot Tournament

Friday, February 5, 2010

Located at the Wilderness Gun Club in Broussard, LA

Registration begins at 10:30 AM

Shoot begins at 1:00 PM

Coastal Day at the Legislature

Tuesday afternoon, May 11, 2010

Reception to follow at Pentagon Barracks

CBC State of the Coast Dinner

June 8, 2010

More information to follow



If you have any questions or information regarding the upcoming events please contact Scott Kirkpatrick or Collin Caranna

Tim Black Addresses Coast Builders Coalition

Corps New Orleans District Chief of Contracting, Tim Black, addressed Coast Builders Coalition members over lunch on January 13th. Tim discussed the Corps' research on armoring that is occurring up at Colorado State University. Most of the research is focused on grass solutions, but he indicated some hardscape armoring may also be considered. The budget for armoring is also uncertain. Much of the armoring budget for the New Orleans system has been diverted to cover current project costs. Depending on the cost of the system and a system certification determination highlighting any deficiencies, armoring funding will be allocated as available and necessary.

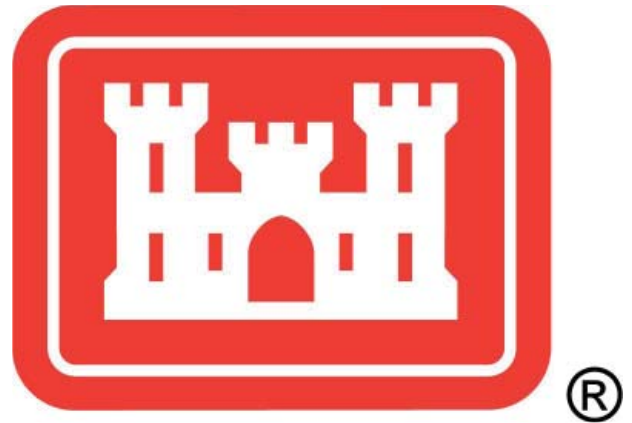
Tim discussed the LACPR "Cat 5" study and the continuing work to be done with the State of Louisiana in order to develop a master plan for the coast. The

study is currently up at Corps headquarters, but the final version has not been released. It is hoped that the study can be used to authorize project for Louisiana. This is what was done in Mississippi. However, a lack of consensus between the State of Louisiana and the Corps has not allowed the study to advance to this point.

The "Stimulus Two" bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in December of 2009 may bring about \$200 million to the New Orleans District. This is based on the District's ability to quickly spend stimulus funding from the first stimulus bill. It is unclear what will happen to this legislation in the Senate.

Finally, there was a brief discussion about the use of the

mitigation funds that will be required for work done on the New Orleans protection system. The required mitigation is estimated between \$400 million and \$1 billion. The Corps is undergoing a review of current project impacts to determine how much and what type of mitigation is required. The State of Louisiana is urging the Corps to use the mitigation dollars to construct currently authorized coastal restoration projects.



OCPR Moving to New Project Tracking System

The Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration will be transitioning to a new project tracking system called At Task beginning in May. Most aspects of the new system will be visible by the public including project timelines, project budgets, project contacts and up to date project information. The At Task system will replace the current system which can be accessed at http://sonris-www.dnr.state.la.us/sundown/cart_prod/cart_msp_status_or_milestone. The new sys-

tem should be an important source of information for the industry and OCPR is open to industry input regarding what should be improved upon from the old system. Please provide any ideas you may have to Scott.

