

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) North Mobile County Meeting

1. Welcome. The subject meeting was held on Thursday, 30 July 2015 at the Hope Community Center in Plateau, Alabama, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) welcomed everyone and facilitated the meeting.
2. Introductions and Purpose. The Director of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), outlined the ACCP's intent and need. The State of Alabama needs a comprehensive plan to guide the State into the future. ADCNR referenced other states' comprehensive plans, such as the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Plan (MsCIP), and how these states secured congressional funding for their comprehensive plans' preparation. The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill events only reinforced Alabama's need for a comprehensive plan. Other state plans were formulated with millions of Federal dollars while the ACCP will be developed with \$1 million dollars of allotted State funds secured by Governor Bentley. The ACCP is a framework to address coastal issues and ADCNR stated the State is seeking focus group input today. ADCNR continued to explain that this proposed plan will not have specific projects listed within it but rather be a framework for the future. Thus, reinstating the fact that public input, such as what will be provided in this focus group meeting, is valuable to the overall ACCP effort.

USACE highlighted differences between this ACCP and other USACE plans, in which, specific congressional language typically guides and/or restricts the USACE's evaluation. Our interest for the ACCP effort is to gain participants' input from this meeting. Information sought in this focus meeting and others will be synthesized to develop common themes. This information will then be compared to anticipated natural constraints, such as sea level change and storm inundation, to forecast current and future needs for a more resilient coastal Alabama. The ACCP will highlight social/cultural, environmental and economic needs and opportunities for the coastal area. USACE presented a PowerPoint presentation.

3. North Mobile County's Vision. The meeting's format was changed from an interactive to a discussion among those attendees to accommodate the participant number. USACE requested feedback from the group regarding what their vision for coastal Alabama is for today, in 10 years, 25 years, and the next 50 years and captured those North Mobile County participants' ideas below.

A Birmingham contractor is currently developing a neighborhood revitalization plan with a third meeting to occur in the near future. Focus of those meetings have centered upon environmental issues, which were highlighted in this meeting. Waterways in the vicinity have been used predominantly for commerce and industry but the community would like to see more recreational use and to ensure wildlife protection. The community is vulnerable given the high level of industry in the vicinity so they request some relief to protect citizens' health from pollutants. Air, soil, and water studies should be undertaken given the area's industrial use.

Hogs Bayou and Three-Mile Creek need enhancements, such as recreational/public facilities. The community would benefit from landing docks, fishing piers, etc. on Three-Mile Creek. Flooding adversely impacts this community during heavy rainfall events. Evacuation planning including accessing those public shelter locations needs to be communicated more effectively so the residents are prepared for future storm events. These evacuation plans need to be extended to industrial accident communication (i.e. spills, pipelines, etc.). Furthermore, evacuation routes need not to be flood prone. Those communities are also subject to increases in flood insurance which may not be affordable.

Supporting higher education and providing improvements to the Mobile County Training School is necessary because education is at risk in this community. Vocational training would enable residences to compete for industrial employment. These communities, such as Plateau, have been forgotten within the City limits. There is great history in this community so creating a tourist industry by focusing on African American Culture and providing a Welcome Center would highlight its significance. These communities must be viable to support local grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, etc. in order to retain their future youth. Reliable utilities must be maintained, such as the following:

- Sufficient water supply and sewer service
- Maintain/increase police protection
- Adequate transportation for medical care
- Health facilities Walking track
- Create specialty schools in community
- Dependability on public transportation
- Need better community communication with police
- Maintain fire hydrants
- Need sidewalks
- Need updated park facilities
- Trash cans
- Street cleaning

4. Action Items.

- a. USACE will prepare meeting minutes.