

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) Faith-Based Organizations,
28 July 2015

1. Welcome. The subject meeting was held on Tuesday, 28 July 2015 at the Five Rivers Delta Center in Spanish Fort, Alabama. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) welcomed everyone and facilitated the meeting.
2. Introductions and Purpose. 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 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 we need your input today.

USACE highlighted differences between this ACCP and other USACE plans, in which, specific congressional language typically guides and/or restricts the USACE's evaluation. USACE explained our interest in receiving participants' input from this meeting. USACE continued to state the ACCP would highlight social/cultural, environmental and economic needs and opportunities for the coastal area. ACCP will synthesize presented information to integrate both coastal counties while overlaying natural constraints, such as sea level rise and storm inundation, to forecast current and future needs for a more resilient coastal Alabama. USACE presented a PowerPoint presentation.

3. Faith-Based Organizations' Vision. 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 Faith-Based Organizations participants' ideas. One participant recognized that a large segment of the community does not have any water connection and/or a concern for its value. Additional fishing piers are needed for public access, especially in the underserved areas. Although the Arlington Park pier exists, it was noted that this pier is too small to accommodate its popularity and use. Reasonably priced accommodations should also be provided for the underserved community, such as hotels, piers, water safety educational programs, etc. Two historic African-American beaches, specifically Fostina and Chastang Beaches, existed along Mobile Bay. These historical sites need to be publicized in Coastal Alabama for their significance. A suggestion to list them on several websites, such as

the Alabama Tourism website and the African-American Heritage Trail website (www.maaht.org), was made. Coastal erosion in those areas needs to be addressed. Flooding in inland coastal areas was also raised as a concern to the community. Flood insurance continues to increase, which adds additional challenges to the community.

4. Table Top Exercise. USACE requested participants identify needs/problems, solutions, opportunities and then place those items on the Baldwin or Mobile County coastal maps distributed throughout the room.
5. Next Steps. Information gathered today will be entered into a database and utilized for additional meetings to leverage and/or expand upon these ideas. The ACCP will be finalized next year.
6. Action Items.
 - a. USACE will prepare meeting minutes.