

Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) South Mobile County Outreach Meeting

1. Welcome. The subject meeting was held from 2 pm to 4 pm on Friday, 24 April 2015 at the Coastal Response Center Coden, Alabama. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) welcomed everyone and facilitated the meeting.
2. Introductions and Purpose. Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) outlined the ACCP's intent and need to identify ways to reduce vulnerability in order to achieve a coastal vision that encompasses all sectors of the community – local, transportation, community, social expectation as well as environmental. ADCNR referenced other states comprehensive plans, such as the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Plan (MsCIP). The ACCP development is funded by Governor Bentley and the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant and supported by the State.

USACE highlighted that the ACCP will build off previous studies and synthesize various entities' input presented and information to integrate both coastal counties. It was indicated that the ACCP will provide a road map which considers sea level, storm inundation, and future needs for a more resilient coastal Alabama.

The ACCP is a framework to integrate both coastal counties into a holistic systematic approach to restoration that will be developed over the next 10 to 12 months with input and participation from all concerned entities and stakeholders. The ACCP will not be a State expenditure plan nor will it consist of detailed projects. The ACCP is a framework to leverage additional funds.

3. South Mobile County Vision. USACE asked the team what their vision for coastal Alabama is for today, in 10 years, 25 years, and the next 50 years and captured those South Mobile County participants' ideas (See below). Representatives of the Bayou La Batre planning board highlighted the need for affordable housing, clean water, oyster restoration, and alleviation of traffic flow which affect businesses (better ingress and egress to I-10). There were several groups who highlighted the need for affordable business insurance as well as reduced homeowner insurance rates. Local fisherman expressed a need for health insurance. Other visions and/or concerns expressed included reducing runoff that may be impacting seafood production in Portersville Bay with expansion of wastewater and sewer treatment facilities; monitoring of air, water and coastal lands for contaminants in Bayou Coden and Bayou La Batre; shoreline restoration along the western shores of Mobile Bay (Mon Louis Island) as well as Dauphin Island; protection of working water fronts, expansion of tourism opportunities (increase access, trails, ferry routes, connect birding locations and promote), acquisition of sensitive habitats (pine forest and wetlands); ensuring sustainable fisheries and local businesses, opening up the causeway for reestablishing sediment transport into the system and better dredged material placement.

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. Participants will receive meeting minutes for review and comment. Information gathered today will be entered into a database and utilized for additional meetings with more specific focus groups to leverage and/or expand upon these ideas. A website is being developed that will include updates as well as maps of gathered information. The website should be available within 1.5 months. Individuals can send additional comments and ideas including names of recommended participants that may have been missed to accp@usace.army.mil. The next meeting will follow in a month.
6. Action Items.
 - a. USACE will prepare meeting minutes and send out presentations.
 - b. USACE will reach out to key stakeholders for outreach and inclusion of local fishermen in the fisherman working groups.

Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan Vision

Today:

Expand Salt marshes to create more storm surge protection, increased water filtering, a larger

juvenile nursery, and more carbon storage credits

Support working water front infrastructure

Support aquaculture infrastructure

Expand productive oyster reefs for more employment opportunities

Ten Year:

Continued focus on the expansion of salt marshes

Support working water front

Support aquaculture infrastructure

Expand productive oyster reefs for more employment opportunities

Twenty-Five Year:

Support working waterfront

Protect Salt marshes

Fifty-Year:

Continue to support working waterfront

Continue to protect salt marshes