

Memorandum for the Record

Subject: Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) Webinar Meeting – Academia – Collegiate Level

1. Welcome. The subject meeting was virtually held on Tuesday, 30 June 2015 from 10 am to 11 am. Included were participants from the University of South Alabama and Dauphin Island Sea Lab. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) welcomed everyone and facilitated the virtual meeting.
2. Introductions and Purpose. The 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. USACE highlighted ACCP's tiered approach from previous studies and existing comprehensive plans. Input presented from various focus entities will guide the ACCP's direction in the development of a coastal plan. USACE continued that the ACCP will provide a road map which considers sea level, storm inundation, and future needs for a more resilient coastal Alabama. USACE presented a PowerPoint presentation.
3. Academia Coastal Vision. USACE asked the team what their vision for coastal Alabama is for today, in 10 years, 25 years, and the next 50 years. Given the virtual format, presented ideas are detailed below.
 - Meteorological conditions/networks must be established in a long-term forum to make informed coastal decisions on such topics as climate change, agricultural [Timber (i.e. temperature/rainfall/etc. impacts to forestry) and education outreach (ecosystem/tourism)]. Meteorological systems, such as National Mesonet, which are labor intensive and costly, ensure continual data collection and analysis.
 - Collaborative discussions among Restore, NFWF, etc. need to occur in order to centralize and avoid duplicative effort. A plan or mechanism needs to be established for synergistic efforts.
 - Data collection is needed to make informed decisions based upon presented scientific findings; therefore those decisions can be justified. Upstream impacts, such as in the delta, need to be monitored in order to fully understand coastal issues. Historic, static EPA measurements aren't applicable to the complex systems in Alabama's coastal area that is located above and below the causeway. Research is required to understand all of the sub-basins/watersheds flowing into the Mobile Bay system. Essentially, researchers must develop their own monitoring approach rather than applying an approach from a "national playbook".
 - Challenges to obtain these presented ideas include the following -
 - Funding for long-term monitoring
 - Compiling and processing the data into useable format for decision-making purposes
- Today's Coastal Vision
 - Establish a Report Card to assess Mobile Bay conditions.
 - Useful outreach effort while establishing a baseline. (Last system baseline was in the 1980s)
 - Develop understandable performance metrics for public distribution. In light of Settlement, public accountability for those expended funds and

communicating resulting improvements are vital. Suggest reviewing Louisiana, Florida, and Tampa Bay NEP ongoing efforts for insight.

- Monitor and observe both the short and long term time spans to understand which indicators represent the Mobile Bay system.
- Baseline data collection is essential prior to project construction, in addition to during and post monitoring/collection, to assess if project objectives are obtained (i.e. D'Olive project).
- 10-Year
 - Publically Assessable Data must be presented in a manner that is visually understandable to all levels.
 - Continue project monitoring to address system responses to those implemented projects along with changes from possible climate change.
 - Public Education is essential to communicate on why projects were implemented as they have been.
 - Implemented watershed management plans for Dog River, D'Olive, Fish River, etc. by this timeframe will hopefully show measureable success based on a measurable criteria.
 - Organized/central outreach mechanisms are needed to coordinate the education and facilitation of information.
 - By this time span, expect better defined link between monitors and people doing the restoration.
- 25-years
 - Oyster, wetland, and seagrass habitat restoration needs to be implemented using baseline information in order to successfully restore these habitats.
 - Challenges have been identified when assessing the Mobile Bay ecological system; thus, more than one metrics could be required to be collected to assess the Bay.
 - Consider population growth on the Coastal Alabama environment and identify ways to co-exist.
- 50-years
 - Many of these identified points will remain valid at 50 years and become even more critical than they are now.
 - Continued uncertainty will occur with climate change and sea level rise and must be accounted.
 - Need to monitor locally upper air in the atmosphere in addition to the surface to better understand atmospheric conditions (i.e. potential UAVs could be used as a metric).
 - Within 50 years, we should have data to show trends and associations with the health of the system to ensure our success of our implemented actions.