

SUBJECT: Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) Federal and State Meeting, 27 February 2015

1. Welcome. The subject meeting was held on Friday, 27 February 2015 at the Five Rivers Delta Center in Spanish Fort, Alabama. The, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, 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. ADCNR referenced other states comprehensive plans, such as the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Plan (MsCIP), and how these states secured congressional funding for their preparation. The Deepwater Horizon Oil spill events reinforced Alabama's need for a comprehensive plan.

The ACCP is a framework to integrate both coastal counties that will be developed over the next 10 to 12 months with State and Federal participation. The ACCP is not a State expenditure plan nor consist of detailed projects. Other state plans were formulated with millions of dollars of Federal funds (ex. \$14 million for MsCIP) while ACCP will be developed with \$1 million dollars of allotted State funds. The ACCP is a framework to leverage additional funds. ADCNR expressed that the USACE has the technical experience from MsCIP and other plans.

USACE highlighted differences between this ACCP and other USACE plans in which specific congressional language typically guides and/or restricts the USACE's evaluation. ACCP will synthesize the presented information to integrate both coastal counties while also overlaying sea level rise and storm inundation events to forecast current and future needs for a more resilient coastal Alabama

3. State and Federal Agencies' 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 Federal and State participants' ideas (See below). It was noted that currently, construction rate in these coastal areas are so high and concern exists in Montgomery on how to balance the economic and environment. The AL-MS Sea Grant, stated a future where people live, work and play in harmony with marine and natural resources. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management noted Alabama's coast as mainly a working waterfront which will continue to be developed along with inland areas and he suggested the waterfront needed parks accessible to the public to enjoy nature. It was further stated, sedimentation management is also important to protect the natural resources. The Alabama State Port Authority focused on infrastructure needs and interrelation of development with nature (sewage, liter, etc.). The Alabama Department of Marine Resources noted sustaining healthy fisheries and abundant habitat – artificial and oyster reefs. Runoff, sedimentation, water quality and public access were raised while also regionally evaluating jurisdictional tools and boundaries.

4. Table Top Exercise. USACE requested participants to identify needs/problems, solutions, opportunities and then place those items on the Baldwin or Mobile Counties 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. The ACCP will be finalized in 10 months. Due an individual's position, they may receive additional meeting requests for those focus groups.
6. Action Items.
 - a. USACE will prepare meeting minutes.
 - b. ALL – Send any known Federal, State, County and/or City Comprehensive Plans to accp@usace.army.mil.
 - c. ALL – Complete provided Coastal Vision Form and provide it to accp@usace.army.mil.

Federal and State Agency Coastal Vision

What does success look like?

- A future that provides a resilient and sustainable coast for residents to live on
- Coastal waterfront that provides commercial development with recreational opportunities such as parks that provide community enjoyment
- A balance in development of growth with consideration for the environment
- Adequate infrastructure with well managed human use
- A well informed community
- Sediment management that includes beneficial use of material
- Healthy fisheries habitats that is also viable to public access
- Rehabilitation of water cycle
- Managing and controlling runoff by means of aquifer recharge
- Identify implementation tools that cross jurisdictional boundaries
- Ensure financial resources and identify needs

Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan Vision

Today

- Collection of data related to current geographic water quality, habitat, and land use
- Development to determine current conditions, vulnerabilities, and plans for future coastal growth
- Oyster reef restoration
- Expanded artificial reef construction
- Increase monitoring assessment of fisheries
- Increase boating access in south Mobile and Baldwin Counties
- Continue to promote watershed approaches to manage coastal resources and implementation practices
- Develop land use oriented protection and management targeting coastal wetlands, streams, and buffers
- Increase of population and usage are stressors that make increasing management of these resources critical

Ten Year Coastal Vision

- Development of local and regional education programs
- Updated legislation and policies
- Beach development increase
- Management of uncontrollable impacts such as upstream water and sea level changes
- Protection and sustainable management of coastal streams, submerged aquatic vegetation, wetlands, and maritime forest habitats
- Develop and implement staged SLR plans and approaches
- Implement coastal waterfront hazard projections
- Restoration projects being sequenced from an upstream watershed perspective

Twenty Five Year Coastal Vision

- Land use modifications
- Offshore aquaculture expansion
- Begin coastal retreat
- Population increase
- Restoration projects to show measurable improvements via functional assessments and water quality data
- SLR approaches and practices adapting to coastal changes
- Protection and sustainable use of coastal habitats