

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD (MFR)

SUBJECT: Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) - Baldwin County Public Visioning Meeting, 12 November 2015

1. Welcome. The subject meeting was held from 6 pm to 8 pm on Thursday, 12 November 2015 at the Baldwin County Central Annex Auditorium in Robertsdale, AL. The first thirty (30) minutes of the public visioning meeting was an interactive workshop session with posters (Enclosure 3). At 6:30 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 to identify ways to reduce vulnerability and increase resiliency. They suggested to think broader than that of the oil spill and decide what your future coastal vision is for the State of Alabama. They referenced other states' comprehensive plans, such as Louisiana and the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Plan (MsCIP), which received Federal funding. Although Alabama did not receive similar Federal funds, Governor Bentley did secure \$1 million of State dollars to prepare this comprehensive plan along with supporting funds for public engagement from the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant. Given the \$1 million dollars compared to those federally funded plans, the ACCP will not be project specific. ADCNR indicated that USACE was engaged due to their technical expertise and experience in developing the MsCIP. The ACCP will leverage those developed MsCIP models to further the ACCP. They explained, to date, 17 focus group meetings and one public visioning meeting in Mobile County have been held. Information was gathered during these meetings and is presented in the displayed posters. ADCNR encouraged everyone to speak freely and provide their input.

USACE, stated that ACCP is a coastal vision for today/10/20/50 years. The intent is to provide a resilient plan not only for today but into the future. USACE highlighted similarities as well as differences of the ACCP with other USACE planning efforts, such as the MsCIP. The intent of the ACCP is to have a constituent input process with a shared vision of ownership. USACE explained that ACCP is a forward-thinking roadmap building off existing planning efforts for Coastal Alabama. USACE presented a PowerPoint presentation.

3. Baldwin County Public Participation 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 participants' ideas. Some discussion highlights have been captured in this MFR with additional details included in the enclosure. One owner of a local paddle boarding company indicated a need for a Wildlife Rescue Center in Baldwin County, or in Coastal Alabama. Only one private center, Coastal Wildlife and Research Center, exists with mention of the City of Orange Beach funding its own center. Local wildlife needs to be cared for given the potential interaction our coastal residences and associated development. One-fourth of the presented comments focus on economics but the local economy is dependent upon Coastal Alabama's environment. Another participant highlighted how the economy and the environment are so independent. Following the oilspill, many comprehensive plans were

developed but questions were raised as to how funds can be identified to implement those vital plans. One participant noted the need for land acquisition plan(s). Several members recognized the importance of environmental education. Furthermore, additional growth pressures are facing us because population predictions were not accurately forecasted for Baldwin County (i.e. numbers were off by ~80,000 individuals). One individual suggested providing incentives for redevelopment rather than clearing new land to promote sustainable development. Community engagement and involvement to create a sense of ownership are essential because more than not communities feel omitted from the processes.

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 with more specific focus groups to leverage and/or expand upon these ideas. The website will be updated to present gathered information.
6. Action Items.
  - a. USACE will prepare meeting minutes and send out presentations.