

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD (MFR)

SUBJECT: Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) - Mobile County Public Visioning Meeting, 10 November 2015

1. Welcome. The subject meeting was held from 6 pm to 8 pm on Tuesday, 10 November 2015 at the Mobile Marriott Azalea Room, Mobile, Alabama. The first thirty (30) minutes of the public visioning meeting was an interactive workshop session with posters. At 6:30 pm, 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. The coastal communities have had many stressors in the past and will continue to face stressors in the future. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill event only reinforced Alabama's need for a comprehensive plan. Other states' comprehensive plans were referenced as well as their funding sources. It was noted that Governor Bentley secured \$1 million of State funds to prepare a comprehensive plan that will provide a road map to increase resiliency in the two coastal counties. ADCNR stated that the ACCP is not the State Expenditure Plan nor will it consist of proposed detailed projects but rather prioritize Alabama's needs to target future funds. The ACCP will provide a framework to leverage additional funds and will hopefully be used to make a stronger case for efforts that tie back to the comprehensive plan.

ADCNR engaged USACE due to their technical expertise in developing the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Plan (MsCIP), including lessons learned from these efforts and applied models, which crossed the state line. Knowledge from these efforts as well as existing local plans and provided input will be utilized in development of this plan.

USACE highlighted that the development of the ACCP is a fully inclusive processes and will synthesize various entities' input presented and information to integrate both coastal counties. The effort will build off of existing plans and look at similarities and conflicts within the various plans. The plan will be forward thinking from today out into the future (i.e. 50 years) for the ultimate vision. USACE stated that everyone should feel they have ownership and that there will be no USACE ideas only ideas of residence of Alabama. USACE presented a PowerPoint presentation.

3. Mobile 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 Mobile County public participants' ideas.

Citizens of Dauphin Island highlighted the need for Federal laws to be followed when mitigating for the impacts to the adjacent shoreline from channel dredging as well as the need to retain sand sources within the state of Alabama for state coastal restoration needs. They also expressed the need for barrier island restoration, not only for the island, but also for the importance of Dauphin Island for Mobile Bay, the Mississippi Sound and surrounding habitats. Citizens and members of the River Alliance expressed the need for Mobile Bay and delta to be reconnected to the upper watershed; the need for a state comprehensive water management plan, consideration by the Alabama water working group of the flows to the bay, and the need for funding to implement Mobile Bay National Estuary Program watershed plans recommendations. Other citizens expressed the need for restoration of the historic oyster restoration areas so that it will not cost so much for oysters on a half shell. Other visions and/or concerns included silting in of all of the navigable rivers channels in Mobile County including Dog, East, Fowl river, and the need to maintain the channels; concern with sea level rise in south Mobile County, which contain large salt marsh habitats and the need to protect lands to the north from being developed; the need to look into beneficial use of dredged material like Mississippi to build marsh, etc.; the need for land acquisition knowing that protecting land is less costly than building land; the need for greater education at state, city, county level on the stresses the coast is under with loss of habitat, sand, etc. that ultimately means less of revenue; the concern over social issues and the need to upgrade the quality of life for south Mobile County including job training and education and the needed for compressive education and planning for the entire coastline not just Baldwin county focus but a full coastline focus.

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. Thursday night another public visioning meeting will be held in Baldwin County. Input from these meetings will be added to the interactive website so you can see everything we have learned so far. USACE will distill all this information, then perform vulnerability assessments and look for road blocks for the ultimate visions. Another meeting will be held to discuss the results of the analysis and what can be done to reduce the vulnerabilities. These will then be grouped into very broad options that we can then reconvene and discuss before finalizing.
6. Action Items.
 - a. USACE will prepare meeting minutes.
 - b. USACE will update interactive map with additional meeting input.