

Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) Elected Officials Meeting

1. Welcome. The subject meeting was held from 2 pm to 4 pm 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 State supports this plan's development, not for enforcement, but rather 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.

The ACCP is a framework to integrate both coastal counties into a holistic systematic approach to environmental 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. Other State plans were formulated with millions of Federal funds (ex. \$14 million for MsCIP) while ACCP will be developed with \$1 million of allotted State funds. The ACCP is a framework to leverage additional funds. ADCNR expressed that the USACE has technical expertise from its MsCIP preparation to efficiently build this comprehensive plan for the State of Alabama. Models were developed for MsCIP that had to include the State of Alabama resources therefore we will not be starting from the beginning but rather leverage upon those available USACE tools.

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 various entities' input presented and 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. Elected Official's 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. It was noted the economy is dependent upon South Baldwin County, which adds stresses along the coastline. This economy is very important to the state for tax revenues. Questions were raised as to how to adapt to future changing conditions and how to recover those lost revenues. Some coastal areas, such as Dauphin Island, are more susceptible to changing environmental conditions which must be able to react to the future. ADCNR stated that what happens along the coast affects the entire state and furthermore, what occurs in the

upper watershed impacts the downstream coastal areas. It was stated the minority of population is concerned about the environment but rather more focused upon social issues. Communication to the general population is lacking on how the whole system interconnects. Education is needed to further explain how the environment and the quality of life are linked. A concern was raised with the ACCP's framework and explained coastal Alabama has demonstrated its resiliency from past storms and expects to continue that ability to recover from future storms for the next 50 years. The concerned attendee continued to explain that Baldwin County does need to diversify its economic dependence from the beach to other avenues. As per the differences between the counties, Baldwin's pollution is focused upon runoff sediment while Mobile has liter issues into the watershed. Another attendee noted coastal Alabama's economic contribution and the challenges of how to adapt to changing environmental conditions. ADCNR highlighted this ACCP should identify tools to quickly recover following an event. Another attendee from the City of Daphne, raised concerns to consistency in the land use given the three areas along Mobile Bay in Baldwin County (ex. Spanish Fort, Daphne, and Fairhope) and concerns about road development and addressing stormwater issues adequately. An attendee from the City of Mobile, raised concerns about the City's stormwater management, which is a current issue and will be an issue for decades in the future.

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. The ACCP will be finalized in 10 months. Due to the nature of attendee's positions, there may be additional meeting requests to participate in 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

Vision Statement

- Weighing benefits and costs of a healthy coast and the economy of Mobile and Baldwin County
- Coastal economy is critical to a stable economy
- Recognizing the value of coastal environment and awareness
- Maintain vitality and opportunities for recreation and economic benefits
- Improve storm water management
- Water quality from further up in the watershed

What limits us today?

- Lacking education of environmental concerns
- Storm water management
- Sediment
- Trash in waterways
- Beach erosion

Success

- Adapting to changing environmental conditions
- Diversify our economy
- Are the resources and investments going to be there in the future?
- How do we correct engineering issues and improve storm water management?
- Need to have consistent regulations across boundaries
- Development of transportation infrastructure and protecting it as we go
- Holistic land use plan