

SUBJECT: Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) Environmental Participation Outreach Meeting, 28 May 2015

1. Welcome. The subject meeting was held from 10 am to 12 pm on Thursday, 28 May, 2015 at the Five Rivers Delta Center, Spanish Fort, AL. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, 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 to identify ways to reduce vulnerability and increase resiliency. ADCNR referenced other states' comprehensive plans, such as Louisiana and the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Plan (MsCIP), which had received Federal funding to prepare. 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. ADCNR indicated that USACE was engaged due to their technical expertise and experience in developing the MsCIP. It was also stated the ACCP is not the State multi-year implementation plan or expenditure plan nor will it consist of proposed detailed projects but rather prioritize Alabama's needs to target future funds.
3. 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. Highlighted were 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 to develop a shared vision and ownership for Coastal Alabama.
4. Environmental 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 Environmental participants' ideas. Some discussion highlights have been captured in this document with additional details included below. Members of the Mobile Bay Keeper indicated the need for clean water, air and land as well as the need to plan for growth, fix storm water problems and retrofit and rebuilt in a smart growth fashion. Members of the Alabama Coastal Foundation expressed the need for inclusive environmental stewardship and the need to protect strategic habitat which can provide natural lines of defense. Others expressed the need to protect natural processes and incorporate features, such as living shorelines, natural hydrology and adaptive management approaches. Representatives of The Nature Conservancy in Alabama expressed mainstreaming nature based solutions indicating a need for social and economic benefits, which are supported by data. Several expressed the need to further communication and understanding of the growing vulnerabilities of existing communities to sea level change. While others expressed identifying appropriate locations for residential development and address taking back developed land to undeveloped natural areas where needed. Conservation of Alabama members expressed a need for all walks of life to have public education and access to our

environment. Others expressed the need of community awareness for protection and restoration of resources as they are the ones who demand for projects which cause impacts.

5. 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.
6. 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. A website is being developed that will include updates as well as maps of gathered information. The website should be available within 1 month. Individuals can send additional comments and ideas including names of recommended participants that may have been missed to accp@usace.army.mil.
7. Action Items.
 - a. USACE will prepare meeting minutes and send out presentations.

Vision

- Clean water, air, land
- Inclusive environmental planning
- Protect and restore strategic natural lines of defense
- Mainstreaming nature based solutions with supporting data
- Public education and access
- Citizens with knowledge regarding economics, social, and environmental aspects to the community
- Intact connected natural processes such as living shoreline
- Informed decision makers
- Evaluate man-made obstacles
- Engaged stakeholders
- Long-term planning past the next election cycle: living plan, guiding principle, incorporation of adaptive management
- Understanding vulnerabilities and risk
- Assisting communities with preventative actions for addressing sea-level rise
- Identify where we should build and not build
- Storm water infrastructure management, smart growth