

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) South Baldwin County Meeting, 10 June 2015

1. Welcome. The subject meeting was held on Wednesday, 10 June 2015 at the Gulf State Park, Nature Center Classroom in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) welcomed everyone and facilitated the meeting.
2. Introductions and Purpose. Director of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), outlined the ACCP's intent and need. ADCNR referenced other states' comprehensive plans, which had received Federal funding to prepare. Although Alabama did not receive similar Federal funds, Governor Bentley secured \$1 million of State dollars to prepare this ACCP along with supporting funds from the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant. ADCNR indicated the comprehensive plan will be broad to cover key issues, stressors and types of solutions but will not identify specific projects. This plan is neither a multi-year implementation plan nor a state expenditure plan. This plan however, should inform and help prioritize plans moving forward in the future.
3. USACE, stated that ACCP is a coastal vision for the next 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 ACCP's intent 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. USACE presented a PowerPoint presentation.
4. South Baldwin County's Vision. USACE asked the team what their vision for coastal Alabama is for today, in 10 years, in 25 years, and the next 50 years and captured those participants' ideas. Some discussion highlights have been captured in this MFR. City of Gulf Shores expressed that one of the greatest challenges and biggest assets to the community is growth and development. There is a need for balancing environmental awareness with protection (water quality and habitat) and economic growth. Access to natural resources is needed as it impacts the quality of life. Both the Cities of Foley and Orange Beach discussed the need to promote community education and environmental awareness. As well as expressed concerns with unregulated and unzoned lands with no requirements for best management practices. A lot of issues are upstream in the watershed, such as runoff from agriculture in areas where there are no buffers to filter pesticides and siltation. Need for improved wetland regulations upstream. Need incentives and outreach to get county and rural areas to come up with solutions. Several in the group suggested highlighting existing programs (i.e. Forever Wildlife and USFWS recycling grants) that have worked well.

Discussion between Congressional representatives and Baldwin County residents need to occur in a proactive nature to address future concerns. Gulf Shores and Orange Beach Tourism indicated need and value in educating tourist that come down to the coast about the value of the coastal habitat.

5. Table Top Exercise. USACE requested participants to identify needs/problems, solutions, and opportunities, and then place those items on the Baldwin or Mobile County coastal maps distributed throughout the room.
6. 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 early next year. A website will be online by the end of the month.
7. Action Items.
  - a. USACE will prepare meetings minutes.
  - b. USACE is establishing a website and will send out notifications.