

9 June 2015 Meeting Highlights

Alabama Coastal Comprehensive Plan (ACCP) West Baldwin County Meeting, 9 June 2015

1. Welcome. The subject meeting was held on Tuesday, 9 June 2015 at the Fairhope Civic Center in Fairhope, Alabama from 3 pm to 5 pm. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District (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. Other states' comprehensive plans were referenced and it was stated Governor Bentley secured \$1 million of State funds to prepare this comprehensive plan. ADCNR engaged USACE due to their technical expertise in developing the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Plan (MsCIP). The ACCP would leverage those applied models which crossed the state line; therefore, not needing to start from the beginning while also incorporating existing local plans and provided input. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill event only reinforced Alabama's need for a comprehensive plan. ADCNR states 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 is a framework to leverage additional funds.

USACE, stated that ACCP is a coastal vision for today/10/20/50 years into the future. Highlighted were USACE's existing work in Mobile Bay, MsCIP, and other major planning efforts along the Gulf coast. MsCIP was developed by USACE asking Mississippi's constituents to identify their desired coastal vision while also explaining what system stressors exist that hinder achieving this outcome. USACE acknowledged Mississippi's constituents continued desire to keep their water connection rather than living behind various structural defenses and that MsCIP provides a long-term roadmap to be accomplished over a 30 to 40 year period. USACE noted the development of a website by the end of the month.

3. West 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. In Baldwin County, high development rate's pressure upon the environment is a concern. In addition, the high cost of living due to finding affordable insurance coverage raises concern for most of its residences. With these issues, responsible development is necessary in Baldwin County. Existing storm water tributaries currently flood which run directly into Mobile Bay. Degradation in water quality over the years has attributed to reduced submerged aquatic vegetation and oyster reefs in the area. Regulatory oversight has historically been inconsistent between each city, while land beyond those city limits has even far less regulations. The need for consistency among the cities, or at least in the same watershed boundaries, was noted. Public access to the water is necessary but also needed is environmental education and awareness for its sustainability. The City of

Fairhope has inventoried its storm water tributaries in order to plan its green space for future water retention while also creating/sustaining habitat corridors. These discussions lead to recognizing the need for greener development to promote those habitat corridors. Mobile Harbor's economic importance for the area was raised and the need to ensure its future competitiveness with other ports given the post-Panamax era.

4. Table Top Exercise. Participants were requested to identify needs/problems, solutions, and opportunities, and then place those items on the Baldwin or Mobile Counties coastal maps distributed throughout the room (See below).
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 ACCP will be finalized early next year.
6. Action Items.
 - a. USACE will prepare meetings minutes.
 - b. USACE is establishing a website and will send out notifications.

West Baldwin County ACCP Public Meeting

June 9th, 2015

- Affordable cost of living
- Affordable insurance
- Sustainable responsible growth
- Stormwater management
- Environmental stewardship
- Improve water quality in Mobile Bay
- Identify stressors
- Coordinated-strategic watershed management plans
- Improving public access to waterfront
- Identify causes/changes in water level in Fish River
- Deepening of Mobile Ship Channel
- Taking a larger watershed view via public outreach
- Address water quality issues upstream
- Storm surge modeling to address resiliency
- Develop a greenspace plan – interconnectors and have a plan for all of Baldwin County
- Green planned developments
- Stormwater discharge and efficient discharge
- Improve wastewater infrastructure
- Increase road capacity