



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers

Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration

ENCLOSURE L

List of Public Outreach Activities

Preliminary Technical Report to Congress
June 2006

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The primary goal of public outreach and involvement for the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LaCPR) Reports to Congress is to provide information and gather public input that could assist decision-making during the design and analysis.

The following public outreach and involvement activities have taken place in 2006.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

25 January – Al Naomi met with Councilwomen Jackie Clarkson & Cynthia Willard-Lewis. Naomi provided Ms Clarkson with information on the ongoing LaCPR. They discussed possible alignments and the six month and 24 month report schedules. Naomi described the concept of multiple levels of defense starting with barrier islands, wetlands, major hurricane levees, and the existing west bank levees. In his meeting with Ms Lewis, they discussed the upcoming Lake Catherine meeting and Naomi informed her that nothing had been decided on an alignment but that the Corps would be soliciting their input. Naomi informed her that he could not guarantee that we could avoid acquiring someone's property, but that we could involve them in the decision-making process. Naomi also said that if the community would give us several names that would be representative of the group, we would make sure that they are kept informed and involved in the process. Naomi believes that it is likely that we may have some negative impacts on some of these folks. It may be an opportunity to have some solid community planning to address their concerns.

28 January – General meeting with the Lake Catherine Civic Association at a fire station in Kenner, LA. SPM Al Naomi and PM Greg Miller presented on LaCPR to several hundred citizens. They were invited by Councilwoman Cynthia Willard-Lewis. The membership consists of folks that have homes/camps along US 90 between the Rigolets and the Chef passes. Most of these were destroyed by the hurricane and they are starting the rebuilding process. In fact they seem very anxious to do so. They expressed concerns about an article about Cat 5 protection that appeared in the newspaper recently that showed a major floodwall down the middle of US 90. They are very much opposed to this alignment and wanted to know if it was finalized.

Naomi told them that we had not made any decisions on the actual alignment and we had only done some preliminary analysis. Naomi suggested that they get a small group and meet with us to discuss potential locations for the protection. They want the protection to parallel the existing railroad track heading to Mississippi. Naomi's concern is that this alignment will likely be more expensive and at some point we will have to turn the protection to the north to cross the Rigolets. They pointed out that delivery of construction material could be facilitated by the railroad and the GIWW.

This raises the issue of exactly where the Rigolets and the Chef Structures need to be placed. The siting is critical and could be the basis of a whole other report. There are some very deep, narrow reaches and some wider, shallower reaches. There will also be environmental issues. The siting decision will impact the Lake Catherine alignment. Meanwhile Entergy is restoring power to this area and many of these folks are going to rebuild.

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13-14 February - Plan Formulation Workshop. A specific list of stakeholders were invited, resulting in more than 100 representatives of divergent interests from across coastal Louisiana participating in the LaCPR Workshop, a two-day meeting that included: presentations of existing proposed alignments; active engagement by stakeholders in brainstorming sessions; and discussions of ideas with the intent of selecting three consensus-driven alignments.

9 – 16 March – NEPA Scoping Meetings. Scoping meetings were held across coastal Louisiana (New Orleans, Thibodaux, Lake Charles and Lafayette) to solicit input from citizens on the proposed alignments derived from the February workshop.

12 March – Executive Committee of the Lake Catherine Civic Association at Lake Catherine. Cat 5 proposed barrier alignments in the area were discussed with SPM Al Naomi and PM Greg Miller. They met with representatives of the Lake Catherine Civic Association, a representative from the Venetian Isle residents and an aide to Sen. Walter Boasso. They are very concerned about one of our proposed levee alignments that runs along US 90 between the Chef and Rigolets passes. This alignment, in their view, would destroy their community and leave half of them outside of the protection. They propose running the protection along the CSX railroad that is located along the GIWW which is somewhat south of US 90. Naomi suggested that we cost out both alternatives in our report. The CSX railroad alignment is significant to the Mississippi concerns because one alternative is to continue the protection into Mississippi and tie it into high ground there instead of north of Slidell. Naomi told the residents that we are coordinating with SAM on the Mississippi report and may come up with a plan that is compatible with what both states need. Also them that we thought the Miss. folks did not want a major levee blocking their view of the gulf. We will be coordinating closely with SAM to make sure our plans are compatible. Media: WWL-TV Chan 4 evening news coverage.

13 March – Citizens for a Safer Jefferson, Metairie, La. About 100 citizens present to hear SPM Al Naomi present on current drainage issues and LaCPR.

14 March – Regional Planning Commission, New Orleans, La. The Commission consists of five parishes in the metro area. About 50 people present that included mayors, parish presidents, councilmen and state representatives.

17 March – Policy Jury Association and Coastal Caucus held its annual meeting in Alexandria, La. Edmond Russo, SPM gave a presentation. He sensed moderate interest.

20 – 23 March – ITR (Interagency Technical Review) team was in New Orleans for presentations on LaCPR to include field trips.

21 March – Jefferson Parish Council Meeting. All members of the council were present, as well as mayors from Westwego, Lafitte, Grand Isle, and Gretna, and the east and west levee districts were represented. SPM Al Naomi presented and was well-received. Times Picayune wrote an article on the meeting.

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22 March – Chateau Estates Civic Association. SPM Al Naomi presented on current hurricane protection and LaCPR. About 50 citizens were present, as well as Mayor Capitano, Councilmen Young and Congemi.

28 March – Rijkswaterstaat and the Institute for Water Resources (IWR). PMs Greg Miller, Tim, Vann and Al Naomi met with Jeanne Marie Stamm of the Rijkswaterstaat and Paul Bourget of IWR on potential areas of cooperation and participation of the Dutch in our LACPR efforts. We listed around seven areas of interest. The Corps will write a summary of these areas and a proposed plan of action for each. The plan is to initiate work on some of these items shortly, leading to a trip to Holland in late June or early July. Payment will be contingent on who does the work. If the Rijkswaterstaat does the work, no charge will be assessed. If Delft Hydro does the work there will be a charge. We'll have to figure out the payment mechanism. Jeanne Marie tells me that mid July to mid August is very bad for a visit because the whole country goes on vacation and getting folks to attend to visitors would be difficult.

4 April – Biloxi Marshlands and Lake Eugenie Land Development companies. Al Naomi, Carl Anderson and Greg Miller met with Randy Moertle to discuss LaCPR. Mr. Moertle is a wetlands consultant representing the Biloxi Marshlands and Lake Eugenie Land Development companies. These private groups own about 150,000 acres of wetlands in eastern St. Bernard parish. They are working to develop a private wetlands restoration and protection plan and have an interest in coordinating those efforts with our LaCPR planning and design work. Mr. Moertle presented an overview of some ecosystem restoration plans for the area and discussed the broad problems facing these wetlands. A focus of the initial plans is moving fresh water into the wetlands. Moertle indicated that the companies would assemble their plan and seek government support and funding for its implementation. Members of our team provided an overview of our planning process including the lines of defense and barrier plan strategies. We encouraged him to contact Bruce Baird and to remain engaged in our public outreach program.

11 April – Al Naomi gave a presentation to Dave McNamara, Chan. 4 WWL-TV at MVN at 9:30 a.m. to discuss category 5 issues, notably levee alignments, a timeline for plans, the first review draft (due April 2006), etc. McNamara suggested the interview could set up here someplace so Al would have access to maps, etc.

13 April - Greg Miller made a presentation to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation Board of Directors covering the LaCPR Report. The presentation noted the initial participation of some members of LPBF, recognized the multiple lines of defense strategy and encouraged continued participation of the LPBF in planning efforts for coastal restoration and protection in south Louisiana.

18 April – Bruce Baird and Greg Miller made a presentation to the New Iberia City Council covering the LaCPR Report. The presentation detailed the scope of the LACPR effort and requested specific participation and information about local drainage, coastal restoration and hurricane protection needs in the city. Questions from council members and the mayor centered on how to participate and made several specific recommendations for projects to be included in the plan development.

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25 April – Norco Community Advisory Panel on Hurricane Protection Levees and LaCPR in St. Charles Parish at Lamaison Magnolia Reception Hall in Norco.

11 May – Public meeting in Houma, LA, requested by Sen Reggie Dupre.

12 May – Louisiana Landowners Association Baton Rouge Board Meeting was briefed by Greg Miller.

18 May – Public meeting in Larose, La, requested by Sen. Reggie Dupre.

20-21 May – LaCPR SE and SW maps displayed on Wheeler, which was docked at Woldenberg Park for public boarding.

5 June – N.O. Geological Society - Tim Axtman – The Road Ahead for LaCPR presentation.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED

June 2006 – ASCE Local Chapter.

9 – 13 December 06 – Restore America’s Estuaries. SPM Edmund Russo on a dedicated panel session to present LaCPR to an international audience.

MISCELLANEOUS OUTREACH

In addition to the above activities, the LaCPR has received extensive media coverage, i.e., the Times Picayune, WWL-TV (Chan. 4), Houma Courier, KLFY-TV Chan. 10, Associated Press, KPLC-TV (Chan. 7, Lake Charles), Lafayette Daily Advertiser, KATC-TV Chan 3, The Baton Rouge Advocate (B.R.) and the Louisiana Network. Educational publications have been produced and distributed at the meetings. The LaCPR web site is kept updated with maps and other information relative to the alternatives, educational materials, news releases, presentations made, and input provided by the public. A Comment link is available for interactive communication.

MEDIA

14 Feb – WWL-TV, Chan 4, Reporter: Dave McNamara. Interviewed SPM Al Naomi during CAT5 LaCPR Workshop in Lafayette.

2 Mar – Louisiana Press Association, Reporter: Mike Reed, mreed@lapress.com, 1-225-344-9309

8 Mar – Louisiana Network (statewide news service), Sue Lincoln, 225-291-2727x4. Interviewed SPM Al Naomi.

8 Mar – Fox 8 News, Jennifer Van Vrancken. Interviewed with SPM Al Naomi

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9 Mar – UNO Scoping Meeting. NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, Reporter: Elizabeth Summers, National Affairs, 3620 South 27th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22206, 703-998-2108, esummers@newshour.org

9 Mar – WWL-Radio Morning Talk Show, 870 AM – Bob DelGiorno. Interviewed SPM AI Naomi about Scoping meetings/LaCPR.

9 Mar – WWL-Radio News, Don Ames, 504-593-6398, 5 am-12 noon. Interviewed SPM AI Naomi.

9 Mar – WDSU-TV, Chan 6, Helena Moreno, 504-697-0607, Noon talk show, 12:15 – 12:45.

15 Mar – KPLC TV, Lake Charles; Reporter Terri Schmidt, 337-437-7570 or 337-437-7568. Interviewed SPM AI Naomi

15 Mar – Associated Press, Cliff Seiber, covered Lake Charles scoping meeting.

16 Mar – Lafayette Scoping Meeting media in attendance: Lafayette Daily Advertiser (Amanda); KLFY-Ch 10 CBS (Cheryl Fatzer), KATC Ch 10 ABC (Justin); and Baton Rouge Advocate (Amy Wold).

12 Apr – WWL-TV, Chan 4, Reporter: Dave McNamara. Met with SPM AI Naomi. Broadcast, 12, 13 & 14 Apr 06.

24 Apr - USA TODAY, Anne Konigsmark phone: 504-891-3114, cell: 504-218-9979. Referred and spoke to SPM AI Naomi.

27 Apr - Popular Science, Michael Behar, phone: 703-469-1899, 3721 6th Road North, Arlington, VA 22203. Referred to and spoke to SPM Edmond Russo and Walter Baummy re: engineering repairs and long-term concepts, respectively.

10 May – Calls from Vision Public TV (Lafourche/Terrebonne area), Lafourche Gazette, B.R. Advocate (Amy Wold) and Times Picayune (Mark Schleifstein-asked for and received presentation) re: the LaCPR public meetings to be held in Houma (11 May) and Larose (18 May).

11 May – Tri Parish Times, Justin, ph: 985-688-7238. Info on LaCPR public meetings

11 May - HTV Chan 10 covered Houma public meeting; Houma Courier (Laura McKnight).

11 May – La 1 Coalition, Henri Boulet, Ph: 985-448-4485, P.O. Box 2048 – NSU, Thibodaux, LA 70310, henri.boulet@nicholls.edu . Requested access to maps used at public meetings.

15 May – Lafourche Gazette, Vickie Chaisson, 888-868-5851, lafgazette@cajunnet.com. Wanted SE La levee alignment map for article on public meetings.

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22 May – New Science Magazine, Jeff Hecht, ph: 617-965-3834. Spoke to PM Greg Miller

22 May – GEO, the French equivalent of National Geographic. Pierre Sorgue, 01 56 99 60 74, email: psorgue@prisma-presse.com. Interviewed PM Greg Miller, Tim Axtman and Bruce Baird.

30 May – Alliance for Affordable Energy, Justin Valls, cell: 504-914-8687. Documentary on Post-Katrina, restoration, selection of appropriate places to restore, build. Interviewed Tim Axtman

26 May – Houston Chronicle, Dominic Izzo, dominicizzo@houston.rr.com, info on LaCPR