

**Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
Public Meeting for Draft Initial Funded Priorities List**

Morgan City, LA – Sept. 16, 2015

Principals:

Chip Kline, State of Louisiana
Chris Barnes, State of Louisiana
Justin Ehrenwerth, RESTORE Council
Teresa Christopher, Department of Commerce
Brad Inman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Britt Paul, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Ebonye Allen, Environmental Protection Agency
Darrell Echols, Department of the Interior National Park Service

Additional Support:

Kendra Parson, RESTORE Council
Alyssa Dausman, RESTORE Council
David Elliott, RESTORE Council
Jessica Kondel, Department of Commerce
Vasilios Manthos, State of Louisiana
Jenny Kurz, State of Louisiana
Greg Steyer, U.S. Geological Survey

The meeting started at 6:00 p.m. and lasted approximately 1 hour. There were approximately 40 people in attendance, not including Council representatives, staff and support.

Introductory remarks:

Mr. Chip Kline: Thank you for coming this evening. We look forward to hearing from you tonight. Vietnamese translation services are available, if needed.

The public comment began at 6:30 p.m. and lasted about 12 minutes.

Public comments (4 speakers):

- Chief Shirell Parfait, Dulac Band of Biloxi Chitimacha Choctaw Tribe: Encourages the Council to focus on restoration and land loss, including to preserve ancestral lands.
- Mr. John Lombardo, Restore or Retreat: Appreciates the Council coming to a coastal parish and the work that went into the draft FPL. Supportive of the draft FPL. Pleased with the Bayou Dularge Ridge project. Would like more transparent project selection and process in the future. Would like to see an updated Comprehensive Plan and large-scale restoration projects.
- Ms. Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation: Appreciates the work that went into the draft FPL. Enjoyed the explanation of the leveraging of funds. Supportive of the Marsh Restoration projects. Encourages the Council to update the Comprehensive Plan and layout how to prioritize large-scale restoration.

- Ms. Karen Gautreaux, The Nature Conservancy: We are pleased to be listed as a partner of the Council and will submit formal written comments. Congratulations to the Council in getting to this point. Supportive of the estuary programs and watershed focus. Agree with the decision to invest in cooperative planning for restoration and monitoring. Supportive of the Conservation Corps program.

Summary:

The meeting attendees expressed the following comments throughout the meeting:

- The comments were mostly positive.
- Appreciate the Council leveraging funds; appreciates the Conservation Corps project and outreach and education efforts.
- Would like to see an updated Comprehensive Plan and large-scale planning projects in the gulf.
- Focus on projects to reduce erosion and preserve cultural heritage.