

LCA Public Comments
May 29, 2003 – Lake Charles
General Session

1. Time frame for selection of projects?

Response: WRDA 2004. Need EIS filed by Sept 1. Formulated plans, public review etc. Draft to be developed over the next few weeks.

2. (Kevin Savor) Sabine and Calcasieu locking systems have been proposed. Possible only needed to be closed seldom, and not a big impact on navigation. How often would locks be used?

Response: 54% of the year the locks would have to be used.

3. Location of locks important. Have many sites been looked at?

Response: Yes.

4. Change in sea-level will affect projects across the west. How will you account for accelerated sea-level rise? Will you be able to get more money to address an accelerated rate?

Response: Yes. We anticipated increased sea-level rise. Trying to keep the plan flexible and maintain options. We should be able to adjust appropriately.

5. Locks on Calcasieu and Sabine – will this “fly” politically with the ports and navigation communities?

Response: In 1998 the plan was put together with support from these groups. We are now meeting with stake-holder groups, including navigation. Will try to coordinate with them. Also, costs to navigation will be considered, and will affect the plan chosen.

6. Carolyn Woosely: Have you coordinated with Galveston COE about Sabine – Naches expansion? This could have negative impacts on salinities and marshes in our area.

Response: Yes. Working at district HQ and ASA levels of COE for coordination.

7. Alternative 1 seems the best solution. You need to look beyond planning to operational levels. In Alternative 2, hurricane tides like Audrey will force decisions on whether to blow levees to permit water to go into the marsh as it traditionally would. You need to consider what repercussions hurricanes would have on operations.

8. Dave Richard: You need to expand boundary of region 4 northward so that planning for increased water input from this area can be considered. Also, seasonal flushing of Mermentau may require considerations beyond the region 4 boundaries. The Mermentau

system extends northward to the Alexandria area, and several potential points of water entry from Atchafalaya system to Mermentau system, but study area does not include them and these options are not considered. Positive hydrologic pressure from upper end of the system could potentially have complimentary benefits to the barrier approaches being considered at the south end of the system.

During high flow/flood events, water enters lower end too quickly causing too much water in the area too quickly. During drought conditions, water has already been released from the system and is no longer available, water release from upper end of the system into lower end needs to be controlled and moderated to reduce these problems.

One route for water from west end of Atchafalaya would be via Millers Lake, north of Ville Platte, into Nezpique Bayou. Another would be via Bayou Teche near Port Barre.

9. (Mike Tritice – RESTORE) Must make sure that what is done in subprovince 1 is independent of the other subprovinces. Mike does not want New Orleans & its lack of local funding for flood control (pump replacement) to jeopardize what is funded in subprovince 4.

BREAKOUT SESSION: SUBPROVINCE 3

1. (Allen Ensminger)

1. Prefers maintain 1 alternative since most comprehensive in doing most good from restoration standpoint.
2. Strongly supports delta enhancement measures, geomorphic features, and managing Atchafalaya influence in Terrebonne Basin
3. Favors coastwide restoration implementation, using most practical approaches. Regarding trade-offs, favors increased freshening at expense of more marine habitats and animal communities.

BREAKOUT SESSION: SUBPROVINCE 4

Members: Sue Hawes, Jon Porthouse, and Joan Lanier

Comments:

- Need more regulation in private properties for fisheries.
- How is Trans-Texas Waterway considered in modeling effort?
- Saltwater lock in Natchez River – need to examine flow from Toledo Bend to enhance marshes. Flow should be sustained.
- Expand Sub-province 4 to include upland streams. Modeling fresh water inflow from Atchafalaya River and Red River into Mermentau Basin during times of fresh water need.
- Need a cost comparison between alternatives and other government expenditures like a B2 bomber.
- Need more experimenting with bio-diversity. Get with Daryl Clark.
- Need to get Galveston District involved!!! Where are they?!
- If the Natchez River is deepened and widened then the salt-water intrusion will increase. The public would like to be notified when the Corps has meetings about this matter.

- Check status of Sabine/ Natchez waterway. Need to address mud drift in the gulf to nourish coastline.
- Need beneficial use of spoil material in wetlands between Pool 3, Sabine Lake, and Cameron-Creole Watershed east of Calcasieu Lake.
- Move toward a “lighter” navigation to eliminate the need for deep draft navigation.
- Need someone who is not a federal employee to attend talks with Washington officials.
- Shoreline protection on GIWW, Grand Lake, and White Lake.
- Add to map, east of Sabine Lake, Lighthouse Bayou, Forge Bayou, Greens Bayou, Johnson Bayou.
- Want dedicated dredging N.W. of Black Lake Lodge marsh, old cattle crossing south of Grand Chenier.
- Address upstream locks blocking sediment.
- #1 agenda: Want to restore historic hydrology.
- Use resources most efficiently be it dredge, diversion, or mining of dredge.
- Look at Ducks Unlimited for funding
- Main objective is to re-establish vegetative communities such as saw grass.
- Make a “working coast”.

M1

- Need lock on GIWW at Gum Cove area to separate the two basins.
- Water from Red and Atchafalaya Rivers during times of drought.
- Change to a more natural system that provides a trickle flow instead of large pulses of water. Perhaps a reservoir could be used.
- Put meanders back into Mermentau River.
- In the Calcasieu Ship Channel, reduce spoil mountains to marsh level.

M2

- Use dredge to move the mud across the channels in annual cycle of maintenance dredging.
- Need computer model of the mud stream around the jetties.
- Need to enhance littoral drift by creating slots in jetties or a jetty by-pass.
- Want alternatives to be marsh friendly not fish friendly.

Comments from Michael Tritico from RESTORE

- Please incorporate into environmental considerations bulletins from the Gulf Biological Station at Cameron, published around 1903-1910. Sets are available at Tulane, LSU, and McNeese libraries.
- Magnificent classical biological studies of various locations in Louisiana coastal zone. Emphasis is on Cameron area but some studies in Terrebonne and other parishes.
- In addition, the report looks at plankton, shrimp, oysters, horseflies, sediment, etc.
- Some of the work is now being re-done by Calcasieu Native Conservancy, McNeese and local high school students, supervised by Marie Reed.