

**Association of Levee Boards
of Louisiana
Comments for Col. Peter Rowan
December 5, 2002**

Final

SLIDE

PRINT

1. Corps seal

2. Title slide
Association of Levee
Boards of Louisiana
December 4-5, 2002

Good morning and welcome to the New Orleans District. It is indeed a pleasure and an honor to be able to inform you about our current levee and project status.

3. Graphic: Topics:
*Funding Program
*Studies/Projects

These are the topics I'll be covering this morning ... but before I begin I'd like to recall the interesting events of this past fall when the state was faced with back to back storms, Isidore and Lili, that could have changed forever the face of Louisiana as we know it today. I'd like to thank the levee board and drainage district personnel that worked with us during the crisis and to let you know that there are still Corps people in the field responding to the FEMA mission of debris removal. It is through these partnerships that we can quickly respond to emergencies and continue to plan for the future.

4. Graphic: NOD FY
2003 President's
Budget
Bullet:
\$287 M Regular
Appropriations
\$50 M Coastal
Restoration
\$2 M Support for
Others
\$14 M Other Programs
PAS, CAP, FCCE
\$25 M Local Interests

\$378 M (Total)

5. Photo: Welcome-
Moonshine levee
Bullet:
**Morganza to the Gulf*
**Alexandria to the Gulf*
**Donaldsonville to the
Gulf*
**Lower Atchafalaya
Reevaluation Study*

6. Graphic: Morganza
to the Gulf Study map

Now I'll begin my presentation with the President's Fiscal Year 2003 budget. It includes \$287 million for the New Orleans District. We anticipate receiving \$50 million for coastal restoration efforts, \$2 million for our Support for Others program, \$14 million for programs such as Planning Assistance to States, and \$25 million contributed by you, our local sponsors. Funds are being provided through a series of Continuing Resolution Authority bills while we await passage of the FY03 appropriations bill.

As for our efforts on the Mississippi River, we are currently managing the four studies listed.

The first, Morganza to the Gulf, will provide hurricane protection to portions of Terrebonne (terra BONE) and Lafourche (la FOOSH) parishes while maintaining their fragile ecosystems. The Chief of Engineers signed the report back in August. It will be forwarded to Congress for authorization.

7. Graphic: Morganza to Gulf, Hwy. 57 Alignment

The plan authorizes improvements to existing levees and construction of 72 miles of new levees south of Houma; construction of nine 56-foot wide sector gate structures in various waterways, one 125-foot floodgate in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) near Bayou Lafourche and two 125-foot floodgates adjacent to one another in the GIWW near Houma. Costs are estimated at \$680 million.

8. Map: Houma Canal (200'w, 1,200'l, 15'd)

A prominent feature of the Morganza to the Gulf project is the multi-purpose Houma Navigation Canal Lock. It is currently in the design phase.

9. Photo: Welcome-Moonshine levee

Bullet:

- *Morganza to the Gulf
- **Alexandria to the Gulf*
- *Donaldsonville to the Gulf
- *Lower Atchafalaya Reevaluation Study

In our second study, we are addressing flooding in a 1,700-square-mile area extending through nine parishes from Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico.

10. Graphic: Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico map (19 miles of channel; 2 control structures)

When funding is available, we will execute a feasibility cost sharing agreement with DOTD and Gravity Drainage District No. 1 of Rapides Parish for the first phase of the study, which will address flooding problems in the Alexandria area. The initiation of the study has been delayed because non-Federal funds are not available.

11. Photo: Welcome-Moonshine levee

Bullet:

- *Morganza to the Gulf
- *Alexandria to the Gulf
- **Donaldsonville to the Gulf*
- *Lower Atchafalaya Reevaluation Study

Our third study area, Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico, is now underway. Its main feature is a hurricane protection levee extending from Larose in Lafourche Parish to the vicinity of Luling (LEW ling) in St. Charles Parish.

12. Graphic:

Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico map
Photo: aerial, Luling

Other features include a structure in Bayou Des Allemands (pro. BY-you Des ALLAH muns), interior drainage improvements and environmental restoration.

13. Photo: Welcome-Moonshine levee

Bullet:

- *Morganza to the Gulf
- *Alexandria to the Gulf
- *Donaldsonville to the Gulf
- **Lower Atchafalaya Reevaluation Study*

We recently submitted a draft report to division on a fourth study, Reevaluation of the Lower Atchafalaya.

14. Graphic: Lower Atchafalaya Basin Study map

Photo: aerial, Atch levee system

The study looks at continued raising of the levees in the Atchafalaya, a barrier plan to prevent backwater flooding, and recommendations for an additional study under an environmental authority for a jetty system in Cote Blanche Bay.

15. Graphic: MR levee
mileage chart
Total: 512
Completed thru FY 02:
495
Under constr: 4
Remaining: 13

As for construction work on the MR&T
levee system in New Orleans District -- it is
about 97% complete. Here are the figures for
Mississippi River levees completed, under
construction and remaining.

16. Photos (2):
1. Baton Rouge Front,
Phase II
2. Alhambra to Hohen-
Solms levee

We currently have no active contracts;
however, we plan to award a 2-week, 2-
block-long levee contract at the Baton Rouge
Riverfront once an appropriate borrow area
is identified. We also plan to address some
gap closures on the east bank; and enlarge
the Alhambra to Hohen Solms and Hohen-
Solms to Modeste levees this fiscal year.

17. Photo: Angola
construction

Above Baton Rouge, FY 03 funds are being
used to complete construction on the last
levee enlargement contract for the
downstream reach from Camp C to the main
gate at the Louisiana State Penitentiary. Two
levee enlargement contracts and one drainage
structure contract were completed last fiscal
year. This project will be completed in the
Spring of 2003.

18. Photo: WABPL-95
Bullet: Atch Basin
levees (mi)
Total: 449
Completed thru FY02:
388
Under constr: 85
Remaining: 52.5

These numbers show our levee progress in
the Atchafalaya Basin, where we're about
93% physically complete.

19. Graphic: Ongoing levee contracts

Ongoing (3): East Bayou Sale-Gordy, West Bayou Sale-Maryland, and Todd Levee and Pump Station

Here are the locations of work currently underway in the basin.

20. Graphic: FY03, Atch contracts

To be awarded (7): Melville Front & Ring Levee; Krotz Springs Front & Ring Levee; W-52 Levee; E-69/73 Levee; Wax Lake Outlet West Levee; Wax Lake West Drainage Structure; and West Bayou Sale North Bend Levee

This fiscal year, we plan to award seven contracts at these locations, if funds are available.

21. Super: Channel Improvement
Bullet:

381 authorized
362 completed
19 remaining

I'll quickly cover the district's channel improvement program. We've constructed just over 362 miles, making revetment work about 95% complete. No new construction work was performed this year.

22. Photo: Stone foreshore protection
Miles Auth 160
Miles compl: 142
Total remaining: 18

We have completed 142 of the presently authorized 160 miles of required foreshore work. This year we executed .3 miles of foreshore work at Willswood.

23. Photo: generic
revetment work on
Atch R.

On the Atchafalaya, we'll construct a total of 1.5 miles of revetment on the left descending bank of Jacoby (pro. Jah CO bee); on the left bank of an upstream and downstream extension of the Mercier (pro. MUR sir) revetment; and on the right bank at Berwick.

24. Graphic: Atch
Basin Bank
Stabilization (Miles)
Completed: 57
Remaining: 5
Total: 62

Completion of this work will leave a little more than 5 miles of the presently authorized 62 miles of required Atchafalaya revetment to be constructed.

25. Photo:
GIWW/Calcasieu
intersection

Last month we placed 9,000 feet of revetment on the east corners of the Calcasieu River at the intersection of the GIWW. This area shoals up quickly after dredging due to bank erosion. Revetment will serve a dual purpose. It will keep the channel open and save capacity in the area's scarce disposal sites.

26. Photo: Scenic,
Lake Pont levee,
lakefront, hi alt

Now let's review our hurricane protection projects...I'll begin with an update on the Hurricane Protection Louisiana Study where we're looking to provide a level of protection against a Category 4 or 5 storm. The Reconnaissance Report has been approved and we are developing cost estimates for the feasibility study. We expect to begin that study this fiscal year.

27. Photo: Cross Bayou
Drainage Structure

As for ongoing construction, I'll begin with the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Project in St. Charles Parish. The Cross Bayou Drainage Structure is under construction and should be completed shortly.

28. Photo: Almedia
Levee, St. Charles
Parish back levee

A contract for a drainage structure in St. Rose was recently awarded. And we plan to award a contract for drainage structures at the Almedia (pro. AL media) and Walker canals, a floodgate at the Illinois Central Railroad, a levee enlargement in Reach 2B and a closure at the Gulf South Pipeline this fiscal year. Completion of these contracts will provide a closed system of protection for St. Charles Parish by 2004.

29. Photo: aerial,
Mirabeau Ave.

In Orleans Parish, construction is underway to floodproof bridges at Filmore and Mirabeau (MEERAH boo) avenues over the London Outfall Canal.

30. Photo: Hammond
Hwy. Bridge

The Hammond Hwy Bridge, which connects Orleans and Jefferson parishes at the 17th Street Canal, is under construction. This contract will expand the current roadway to four lanes under a multi-agency agreement.

31. Photo: Orleans
Parish, P.S. #6

This fiscal year, we are scheduled to award a contract for fronting protection at Pump Station #3, similar to work shown here at P.S. #6.

32. Photo: N.O. East
back levee, aerial

And we'll award a contract to enlarge the New Orleans East Back Levee along the GIWW near Michoud (ME shoe).

33. Photo: aerial,
Bayous Dupre and
Bienvenue

In the Chalmette Loop, we have a levee enlargement contract underway between the Industrial Canal and Paris Road. We are planning to award a levee enlargement contract between the Bayou Bienvenue (be IN vin new) and Dupre (DO pree) structures later this year.

34. Photo: aerial,
Algiers Canal around
the Belle Chasse Hwy

Work currently underway on the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project includes a levee reach along the east side of the Algiers Canal from the Hero Levee to Belle Chasse Hwy. And a contract on the Reach 3 floodwall for the pump stations at Ames, Mt. Kennedy and Oak Cove.

35. Photo: Harvey
Canal

We recently awarded a contract for pump expansion and fronting protection at Cousins Pump Station. In the Harvey Canal, we recently awarded a contract for a discharge channel, floodwall and culvert, and will award a contract for a sector gate complex this fiscal year.

36. Photo: Lake Cata.
at Bayou Segnette

And in the Lake Cataouatche (cat ah watch ee) area, we have a contract scheduled for award this fiscal year from the Lake Cataouatche Pump Station to Bayou Segnette (SIG net) State Park.

37. Graphic: N.O. to
Venice project

As for work on the New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project, we recently awarded a contract for a second enlargement of the Ft. Jackson to Venice area along the west bank river levee.

38. Map: LaRose-GM,
Pointe Au Chien

In Lafourche (la FOOSH) Parish, on the LaRose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection Project, we recently completed construction of the second lift on the Pointe Au Chien (point ah shin) mitigation levee. The South Lafourche Levee District is constructing a third lift on Section F as part of their 30 percent non-federal share. This levee system is about 95% complete.

39. Photo: Aerial of the Leon Theriot Lock (Golden Meadow Floodgate)

The post authorization change report for the Leon Theriot (terry oh) Lock has been submitted to Division for review and preliminary comments are being addressed.

40. Photo: Grand Isle

Grand Isle's hurricane protection, a sand dune levee completed in 1991, was damaged by Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lili back in late September and early October. The mayor requested federal assistance through the Corps to repair resulting damages. We are in the process of forwarding the request to headquarters for a decision.

41. Map: shrinking landscape

And now, I'd like to switch gears and briefly talk about coastal land loss in Louisiana. With more than 600,000 acres of coastal wetlands lost in the past century and another 320,000 acres to be lost by 2050, we stand to lose one of the country's most bountiful coastal ecosystems. Louisiana's coast is:

- *home to 2 million Americans;
- *contributes nearly 30% by weight of the total commercial fisheries harvest in the lower 49 states;
- *provides over-wintering habitat for 70% of the migratory waterfowls using the Central and Mississippi Flyways;
- *along w/the Gulf of Mexico produces 18% of U.S. oil production and 24% of U.S. gas production, with an annual value of \$17 billion;
- *provides a buffer against hurricane storm surges.
- *Louisiana's ports rank first in the nation in total shipping tonnage; and the unique human culture and beautiful setting of southern Louisiana is world-renowned.

42. Graphic: Pie Chart,
Coastal restoration
programs

This pie chart shows the impact that our continuing authorities program, freshwater diversions and the Breaux Act projects have had on coastal wetlands loss...they address only 28% of the problem. Compare that to the Louisiana Coastal Area Comprehensive Coast-wide Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, referred to as the LCA, with the lion's share at 72%. LCA is our most recent and complex undertaking to date. The study will identify long-range, large-scale ecosystem restoration strategies across coastal Louisiana that will total an estimated \$14 billion over the next 30 years.

43. Photos: 4 with
bullet, "One Voice."

It will take the citizens, people like you in the audience, our legislators, and all the government agencies located in this state, speaking with one voice...to develop consensus on the structure and strategy of this plan if we Congress to approve the plan. Everyone needs to recognize the problem and get on board by participating in the solution. One way to do this is to make every effort to raise awareness that this state and inevitably, the nation, will have lost a precious resource if this problem is not addressed. If the marshes go, there's nothing left and there will be no way of getting it back. Let's speak with one voice...let's work together to restore coastal Louisiana.

44. Photo: aerial, New
Orleans

I'll end my presentation now by recognizing and thanking our friends in the levee districts. Together we protect the citizens of south Louisiana from flooding by high water or hurricane surges. The Corps and the levee boards, partners for 74 years, stand ready to respond if and when necessary.

45. Photo: donkey

One very last thing....Go Army...beat Navy.

46. Seal Obverse

And now Brian Keller will come up to announce the recipients of the Outstanding Maintenance Awards for 2002.