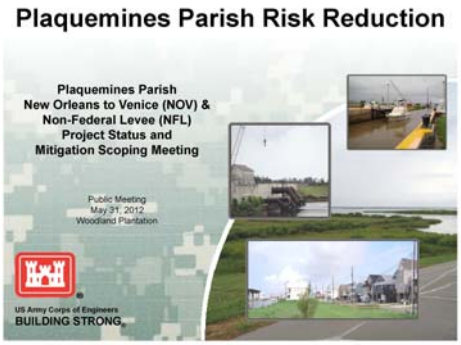
US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

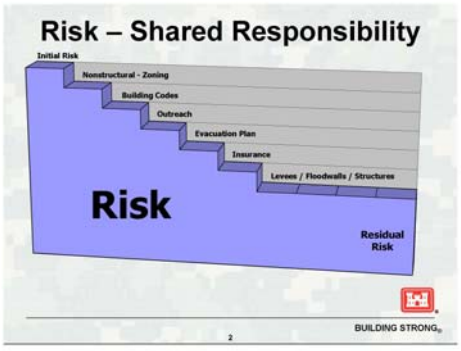
Public Meeting Summary

Plaquemines Parish New Orleans to Venice (NOV) & Non-Federal Levee (NFL) Project Status and Mitigation Scoping Meeting
May 31, 2012

Location	Woodland Plantation
Time	Open House 6:00 p.m. Presentation 6:30 p.m., followed by a discussion
Attendees	Approx: 49
Format	Open House Presentation
Handouts	• Presentation • Approval Process Brochure • 2009 Status map
Facilitator	Rene Poche

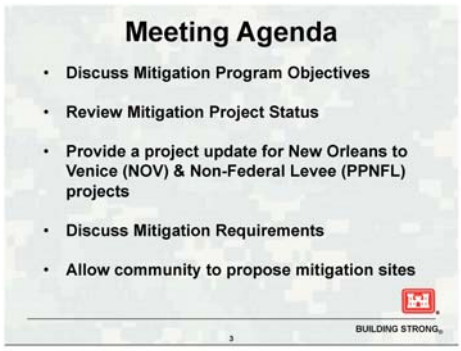


Thank you and good evening for coming out and braving the storms. We were wondering what kind of turnout we would get when we were driving here because the weather was not the best and it's a great turnout and a typical turnout when we do meetings down here in Plaquemines Parish and we really appreciate you coming out tonight. My name is Rene Poche and I'm with the public affairs office in New Orleans. A couple of things before we get started. The restrooms are through the door the exits. Also, if you haven't signed in we ask that you please sign in as it will get you on the mailing list so you can find out about meetings and other things that are going on with projects. I ask that you hold all your questions until we've gone through the presentation, as there is a good chance your question will get.

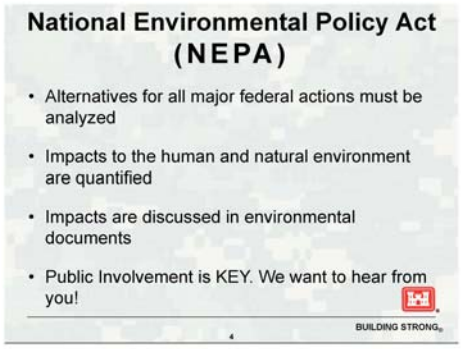


If you've been to our meetings you've seen this slide as we open up all meetings talking about risk and it being a shared responsibility. When we first started this we called it the Hurricane Protection System, but we learned over time that reducing risks is what is really important so now we call it the Greater New Orleans Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. Even after we build a levee, pump station, gate, whatever structure there is still going to be residual risk to residents in that area. The diagram here shows you that we start off with the initial risks at the top and then there are opportunities to reduce that risk through the step system you see and the final there being the levees, floodwalls and structures. The big thing you need to understand here is that where we live in Southeastern Louisiana there will always be risk. We need to listen to local elected

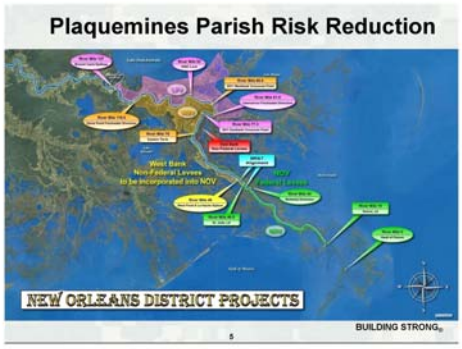
officials and when they say it's time to evacuate we just need to do so and then come back when it's safe.



Here is the meeting agenda tonight. The primary purpose tonight is to look at mitigation program objectives and then we will go over the status of the mitigation projects. We will provide you with an update on the New Orleans to Venice and the non-federal levee projects as well. We will talk some more about mitigation requirements and then we will get to your questions and concerns.



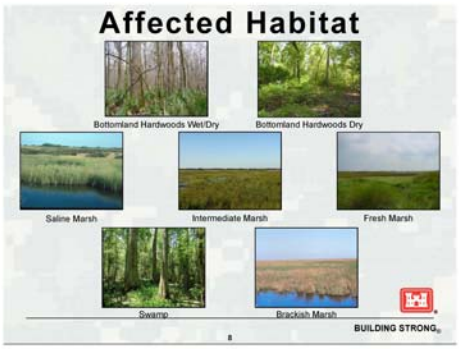
The National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. The primary reasons for these meetings are to notify you and update you regarding the mitigation needs for the projects as part of the NEPA process and to get your input. We look at the impact that projects have on the environment; this includes people and roads, not just plants and animals. All federal actions have to follow this act. Every time federal money is used, we go through this process and we look at human and natural alternatives that are available. So if we building something we will look at some non-structural alternatives also, but again, the key to this whole thing is public involvement to get you r input and better understand your concerns and then we will take all that information and make the best-informed decision that we can. At this time I'm going to turn it over to Nicole Harris, she is the project manager for the projects in this area.



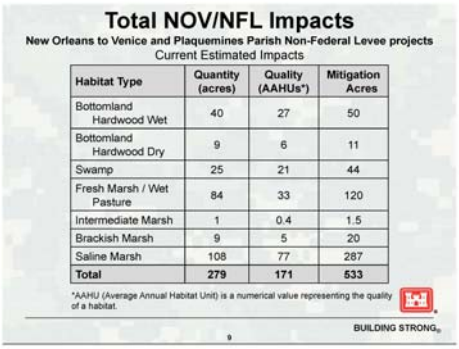
Nicole Harris: We are going to get started by giving you an overview of the projects of the systems that we are building here in Southeast Louisiana to provide risk reduction and as you can see, in pink, that is the Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity Project. In the yellow is the West Bank Vicinity Project is, again that is for the Greater New Orleans area. Here in Plaquemines Parish, we have three systems that are working together to provide risk reduction. Now here in Northern Plaquemines Parish we have the WBV Project, in South Plaquemines Parish, we have the New Orleans to Venice non-federal levee project, and we also have the Mississippi River Levee System. We are authorized to provide a 2% level of risk reduction in this area.

So what are our objectives for mitigation in this area? We try to avoid impacting natural resources and where we do impact those resources, we try to minimize them and we also compensate for them. When we finalize our plan it will be discussed in an environmental document that we anticipate will be released this fall. It's also important to note that mitigation is a fully funded effort.

Now where do we mitigate? We try to mitigate as close to the impacted areas as possible. We also look at mitigating inside the same hydrologic basins. Here is Southeast Louisiana, we have three of those: Barataria, Breton Sound and the Mississippi River Delta. We also look to mitigate within the same habitat type.



Here in our NOV-NFL projects, these are the types of habitats that we will be affecting. Our two primary types are bottomland hardwood and the marsh.



This slide shows how many acres we are currently estimating will be impacted. You can see this number 279 ad that is what we are anticipating at this time, but we are looking at having to require and restore 533 acres and this is just a calculated method we use to address the 279 that is being impacted through the construction of our projects. These are not hard and fast numbers and as we get further on into our design and construction we will keep an eye on this number and make sure that we keep a number that matches the quantity that we are actually affecting.

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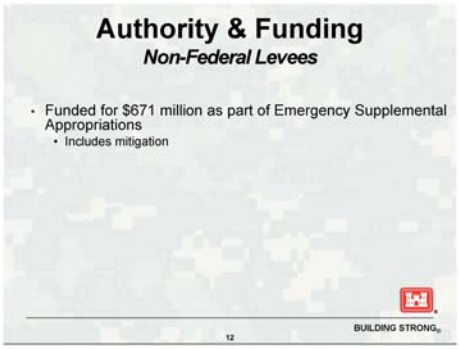
Now I'm going to give you an overview of the Non-Federal Levee, or NFL project.

As you can see here on the map, this is the red back levees that extend from Oakville to St. Jude and it's approximately 34 miles of levee. We have this area broken down into three contract reaches.



We currently have 671 million dollars of funding for construction of this project and this also includes mitigation costs.

This map here shows sections; this is section here 1-5. This is how our project is broken up in the environmental documents and we are just showing you how they relate to our contract reaches NF 4,5, 6.

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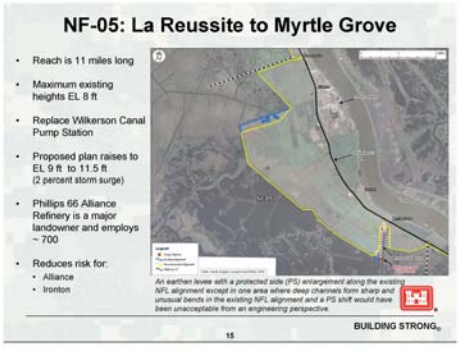
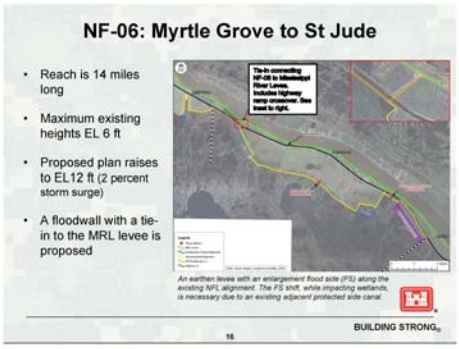
NF-04 is Oakville to La Reussite and this reach is eight miles long. The maximum existing height is at elevation 9. Again, we will be raising these to provide a 2% level of risk reduction in this area and the elevations will range from 7.5 to 9. As you can see these are the communities included in the reach that will have a reduced risk.



NF-05 is La Reussite to Myrtle Grove. This reach is 11 miles long and the maximum current height is elevation 8. Our propose work will raise it from elevation 9 to 11.5 and we will also be replacing the Wilkerson Canal Pumping Station, which is down here by this dot. Also, key locations in this Reach are the Alliance Refinery and the community of Ironton,



NF-06 is Myrtle Grove to St. Jude. This reach is 14 miles long and the maximum existing height here is 6 feet and the propose plan will raise it to elevation 12. This red box right here shows where we currently anticipate based on available funding to tie into the Mississippi River Levee.

Now we are going to move on to New Orleans to Venice or NOV Project.

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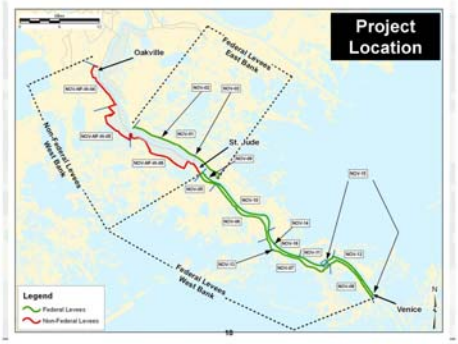
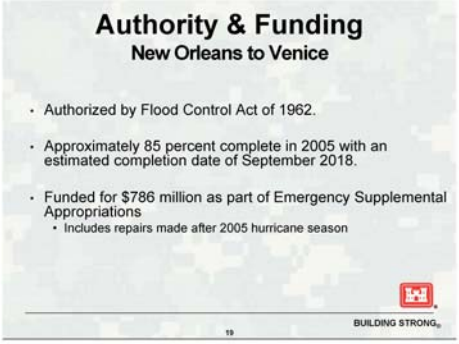
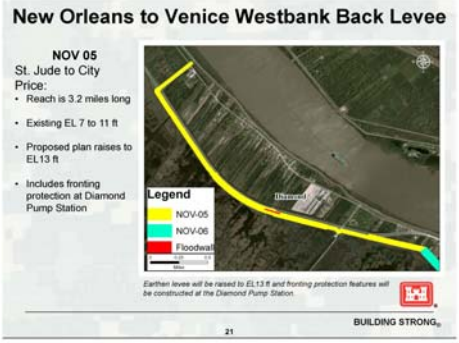


These projects are shown in green. On the East Bank we have back levees from Phoenix to Bohemia and on the West Bank from St. Jude to Venice; we have not only back levees with the corresponding Mississippi River levees or MRL.

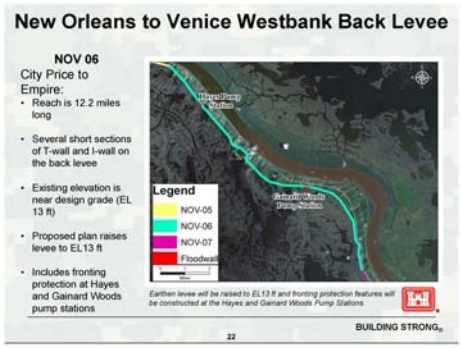


This project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1962; 786 million dollars was funded for this project. This also includes repairs that were made after the 2005 hurricane season.

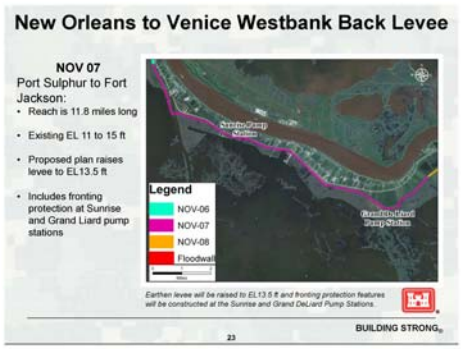
Starting on the East Bank with NOV 02, this project will construct fronting protection for the Bellevue and East Pointe á La Hache pump stations.



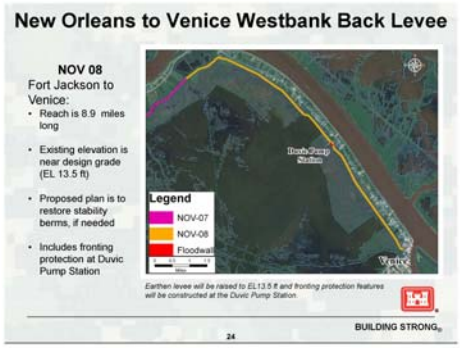
Shifting over to the West Bank Back Levee, NOV 05 is St. Jude to City Price. This reach is approximately 3.2 miles long with existing elevation 7 to 11 and the proposed plan raises it to elevation 13. This will also include fronting protection at Diamond Pump Station.



NOV 06 is City Price to Empires and this reach is 12 miles long. The existing elevation is near their proposed designed height of elevation 13 feet. This also includes fronting protection at Hayes and Gainard Woods pump stations.



NOV 07 is Fort Sulphur to Fort Jackson. This reach is 11.8 miles long and the existing elevation ranges from elevation 11 to 15 and the proposed required height in this area is elevation 13.5 and this also includes fronting protection at Sunrise and Grand Liard pump stations.

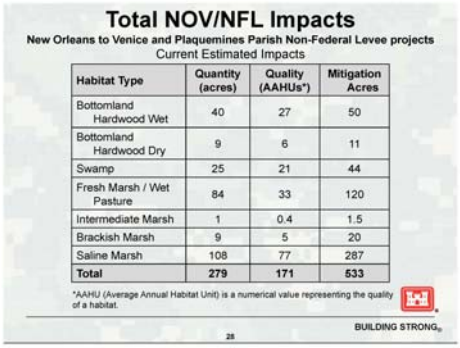


NOV 08 is Fort Jackson to Venice and this reach is 8.9 miles long. The existing design grade is also near the proposed elevation design grade of 13.5 so here we plan to construct stability berms if necessary. This also includes fronting protection at Deuvic Pump Station.

NOV 13 is the Empire Flood Gate shown here in the yellow. The existing floodgate is at elevation 14.6 and our propose height is elevation 19. Our proposed plan at this location is to remove the existing floodgate, but keep the guide walls of the structure so it will be an open channel, however, we will be constructing a sector gate behind it to provide protection to be closed during storm events.

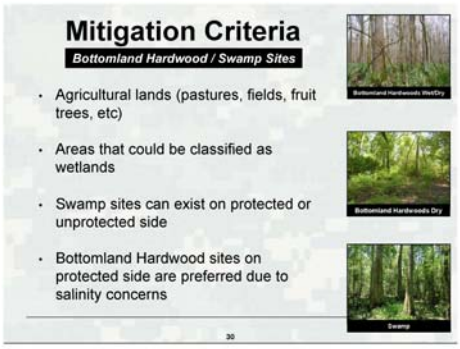
NOV 14 is the Empire Lock. This plan is to construct a sector gate at elevation 21.5 and the current plan would be to place a sector gate within the existing structure and tie into the levees on either side. The existing elevation right here is 14.6 so it will gain about seven feet of protection right there.

This slide shows the tentative time line for key milestones on our project. Right now, we are around this area right here where we are working on getting our project partnership executed. This document enables the Corps to construct the projects. We look to advertise the first contract in July and reward in August and we anticipate construction to be complete on the last project somewhere between 2016-2017; so we have a lot of construction still to go.

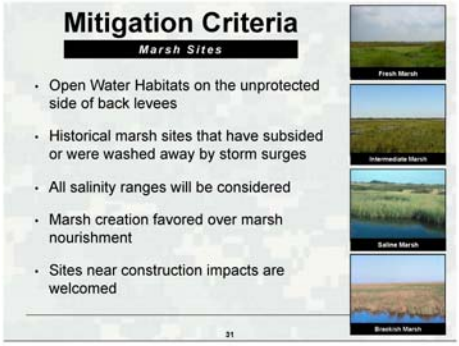


Before we get into the criteria we look at to select mitigation sites, this shows you that we have 279 acres that we estimate are going to be impacted. We will be acquiring and restoring 533 acres to mitigate those acres that we have affected. Again, we will keep an eye on this number and if we impact more then our mitigation plan could potentially change.

What sites do we look at? We primarily want to look within the same hydrological basin that we are affecting. We also want to look at sites that should or need to be restored, sites that are currently owned by willing sellers, sites that are least 100 acres in size, sites that are identified in the coastal master plan and we also consider mitigation banks.



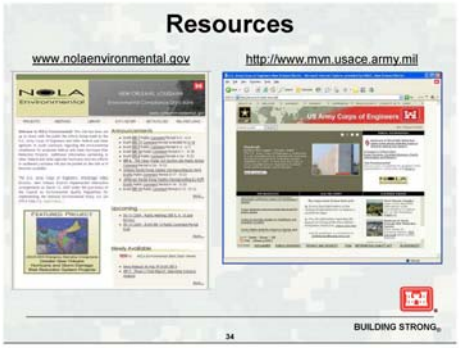
For bottomland hardwood and swamp sites, we look at agricultural lands or lands that may be classified as wetlands. We also take into consideration whether the site can be on the protected or unprotected side. For hardwood we prefer on the protected side because of salinity where as you can see the swamp can be on either the protected or unprotected side.



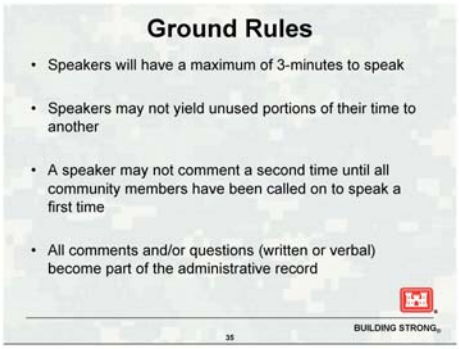
From our sites we look at open water habitats, historical marsh that may have been destroyed during a storm event, all salinity ranges are considered and we do favor marsh creation over nourishment and we also look at sites near construction impacts.

So this is the tentative schedule we have for our mitigation efforts. We are still working on the screening of potential sites. The document that I referred to earlier, where when we have our mitigation plan finalized, which will be in early fall, we will also at that time look to acquire real estate. Then we will look to issue our first construction contract in July 2013.

Rene Poche: So if you want to follow what's going on with the Corps of Engineers, there are a variety of ways you can do that through social media. We have accounts on Twitter, Flickr and Facebook. If you do that, go to Facebook and like us as we post a lot of information out there about what is going on in the New Orleans district. We have over 5,000 people following us now so it's really a good resource in addition to everything else that is available to you.



Here some other resources. We have nolaenvironmental.gov, a great place to find out information, especially the environmental work that is going on. Then our public website, mvn.usace.army.mil has a lot of information on everything including hurricane work, civil side or operations that are going on.



We are now going to open up the meeting to hear from you. We do have a few ground rules. You will have three minutes to speak and you can't yield your unused time to anyone else. We ask that we go through everyone once to ask questions and then if you want to say something else, you can do that also. All comments and questions, written or verbal, will become part of this administrative record. When you came in and signed in, Kristen gave you a postcard and that is another way you can get information or comments to us. If you don't want to speak to us tonight, you can fill that out and drop it in the mail, I believe it's postage paid, and that also will become part of the record. We will now open up the meeting. We do need to you come to the mic and state your name for the record please.

Gary Ragas: On the section in there for La Reussite, what's the existing height of the levee will the finished product be. I didn't quite understand that and when do you expect to start?

Nicole Harris (USACE): We are talking about NF-04 and our maximum existing height is at elevation 9. Our proposed plan will raise from 7.9 to 9 so the criteria is to 2.9 feet. There may be some areas that are at elevation 9 right now and the plan will be to raise the entire section to elevation 9. Let me clarify, that 7.9 at the north half and 9 at the bottom.

Gary Ragas: So Nicole, the proposal is to raise everything to nine ft?

Nicole Harris (USACE): No. Based on where we are on the levee, the design height will be 7.5 to 9; it's based on where we are on the levee.

Rene Poche (USACE): The further south you go the higher the levee.

Male Speaker: The construction height [Inaudible]

Male Speaker: Is that line, the striped line, new?

Nicole Harris (USACE): The striped lines are the limits of the contract.

Male Speaker: [Inaudible] so that's where the current federal back levee ends right there? That's tied into the federal levee?

Nicole Harris (USACE): You see where we tie in right here, that's where the existing levee is. So the 9.8 wall is in that location and we are tying into that…

Male Speaker: So right now the back levee goes to where that wall is and you start [Inaudible]

Gary Ragas: The second part of my question is the contractor going to be offered this year?

Nicole Harris (USACE): No, it will be sometime later this fall. We have the names and we can provide you with our tentative schedule is for them.

Danny Fisher: There was no mention about the pumping station at Point Celeste; are they going to upgrade that pumping station also? If you [Inaudible] if you tie into the federal levees above us how are you going to get that water out down here [Inaudible]?

Paul Eagles (USACE): At this point, since it was below the cut off we weren't going to do any work pass [Inaudible].

Danny Fisher: Well if you raise the levee that pumping station is actually below the grade the levee is going to be.

Paul Eagles (USACE): This part of the levee at this time is not going to be addressed for the project [Inaudible]. The funding limits we have we had to itemize here and we don't have the funding as you see down at the bottom.

Cross-talk

Nicole Harris (USACE): Not below our cutoff right here and again, this point was selected based on the available funding that we have. If we can find ways to save funds elsewhere, whether it be to borrow a cost or other methods, we will potentially be able to move this line down but we would have to design that.

Foster Creppel: What is funded at this time? Which zones?

Nicole Harris (USACE): Basically again, this is the top of the system NF-04 and we anticipate tying in right here, which is south of Myrtle Grove Marina Estates.

Foster Creppel: So that's where it's going to stop?

Nicole Harris (USACE): At this time that is where construction will stop. Crosstalk…..for the non-federal projects. For the federal projects…you see the projects that we discussed here from St. Jude to Venice on the back levees and these pumping stations on the East Bank as well. We are also working on design of these other projects. [Inaudible] but we currently do not have funding for those.

George Howard: So the schedule must be staggered; is the schedule that you gave for the entire system or say the first section?

Nicole Harris (USACE): This is for the projects that we will be constructing, the ones that I just explained. The last contract will be complete for the NOV projects in 2016 and for the NFL for 2017. So our first contract out…we are looking at awarding some of our smaller fronting protection projects first and then the next one out of the gate is NF 04.

Ralph Herrman: Can we go back to the mitigation slide? So you have to mitigate 533 acres, is that what you are telling me?

Nicole Harris (USACE): This 279 is the amount that we are impacting.

Ralph Herrman: Inaudible question.

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): Those are average annual habitat units.

Ralph Herrman: Are we talking about nutria, you know animals like alligators…

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): Yes, anything that is using that habitat. This gives us a cumulative estimate on the quality of the habitat that is impacted and it gives us an estimate of just how much habitat we need to put back. You will notice that the impact acres and the mitigation acres are not equal, there are a lot more on the mitigation side and that is because that quality of the habitat that is out there now is probably better than the quality of the habitat that we will create at the beginning so we will have to overdo it in order to put back all of those echo systems at this time.

Ralph Herrman: How any of those are in Plaquemines Parish?

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): All of these are in Plaquemines Parish.

Ralph Herrman: Could we trade in the money to do this mitigation in Plaquemines Parish because we could probably do a better job with it. We could get a lot more for our money if you could just give us the money and let us chose where to mitigate.

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): Unfortunately, that's not how it works.

Male Speaker: [Inaudible – cross talk] that mitigation money is left right?

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): No, but as Buster was alluding to, if we do select a project on a landowners property, we may purchase that property from the landowners if we do a mitigation project on that property.

Male Speaker: But the rest of the mitigation work [Inaudible] from the mitigation bank because they had to approve the [Inaudible]

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): We are still looking at a broad range of options that are available, most of which are in and around Plaquemines Parish. We haven't decided where this will be done.

Ralph Herrman: This money could be used for a CWRPPA project or something?

Male Speaker: No, no connection, that's a separate federal project.

Ralph Herrman: So we can recommend what we would like?

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): That's the purpose of this meeting. One of our main purposes is that we have not decided anything; we are still in the date gathering stage. We have a few properties that were identified by the agencies like the Wildlife & Fisheries Services, Marine Fisheries and others…

Ralph Herrman: We know them pretty well, like…

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): There are so many of them it's really hard to point them out. They range up and down these basins that you see. We've also been looking at aerial images and identifying areas that look good to us and we've taken a lot of input from the state and others and this is an opportunity for the general public. If you are a landowner with property that you think would be suitable for mitigation we want to hear about it. IF there are overarching, things that you want to see done in certain areas, then we can take that input. We may not necessarily satisfy all those requests, but we want to hear it and it will be taken into consideration when we are choosing those sites.

Ralph Herrman: Well there is a lot of land that's been lost in the barrier and anything we can do be heard.

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): We will look into it.

Charles Ballay: Is there any medication of that 279 acres that has to be quantity and mitigation proper [Inaudible]. At 279 you can't just count that's there is already a levee there and many areas on the other side you are showing that the elevation wasn't going to change that much so in other words, are you not counting the same thing twice? It's already levee so it seems like you wouldn't need a mitigation factor three and you are not raising much in most of those areas.

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): Actually, this slide is only documenting the wetland impacts that we are anticipating in the wetlands and bottomland hardwoods. This does not take into account the footprint of the existing levee; this is only the levee at seven feet and we are raising it to nine so it's going to have to get wider and obviously the footprint will be enlarged so that's the margin we are taking into account.

Dewell Walker: I'm a little concerned about Phoenix to Bohemia, mostly on the east side. We're ya'll going to stop that right at Bohemia because the topography of the land and the marsh right there, that's where the water is coming in. If you go down a little further near Fort Jackson and go in there. I also heard they were taking the spillway out there.

Nicole Harris (USACE): NOV 01 is this reach between Phoenix and Bohemia and that is not going to be constructed. We are going to be working on the fronting protection in that reach.

Dewell Walker: Are they taking out the spillway area?

Nicole Harris (USACE): No.

Dewell Walker: One other thing on the West Bank, ya'll are building a lot of levees all over New Orleans. Isn't the water coming from Barataria Bay? Isn't that the purpose of stopping it and we have a beach out there now and that some of the money you spend on the levee out there on the beach…it's kind of like putting a bucket there to catch the water to stop the leak and you could also solve three or four problems at the same time if you didn't have the marsh loss and the beach in front of it. None of the estuaries have a beach in front of it. Right now Louisiana doesn't have an estuary; we have an open face loop. People are also talking about the spillway, the more fresh water you put in the marsh and that's our problem to begin with, not that we don't need the fresh water, but we have too much current now and still they put all the spillways they did [Inaudible] and it will do that in one year. I'm the only fisherman [Inaudible] it's open all year and it washes out and you lost what you had last year and then next year when it comes up the river and when you open or not open, you will just blow it out. Maybe a brackish water diversion instead of a freshwater diversion and something to do with the beach out in front of it; that's basically our hurricane protection anyway. Y'all let these hurricane to come up against these levees but they don't have the design to …if you look at your levees they are all cupped, well that is exactly where the water is going to come in, it's going to hit the cup. You turn it around the other way like a boat, then you make it go around it. It seems to be like the water is almost aligned to come over right at the floodwall, but definitely lower Plaquemines Parish [Inaudible].

George Howard: I am president and founder of Restoration Systems of Raleigh, NC. We are a mitigation firm and I have a question/comment. How much of that funding is programmed for mitigation or specifically programmed??

Nicole Harris (USACE): Part of, I don't have numbers off the top of my head, a total of 45 million for the non-federal and the federal levees.

George Howard: Will the differently salinity grade of the marsh be able to be mitigated with each other? In other words, can fresh mitigation for intermediate?

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): As for a s that is concerned, certainly we haven't made the decisions in that regard. There may be some flexibility of fresh and immediate and some lumping there if it's appropriate and also a lumping of saline and brackish. However, we don't want to cross the whole breed for sure due to various reasons. We look at there being some possibility for intermingling if the projects make sense.

George Howard: So the intermediate might be the best chance and might swing in both ways?

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): We will look at it on a case-by-case basis.

George Howard: I look forward to keep up with y'all as you develop your criteria and what your need are as that would be important to us to potentially provide your needs. We very much appreciate you including mitigation banks and options and now move on that may be a little bit of an announcement to describe our project for the folks out there. Again, we are mediation banking only firm, we are not consultants or engineers although we hire a lot of them. We sell mitigation credits and we work from Pennsylvanian to Houston in about 10 states and we 40 banks and sites and roughly about 30,000 acres in various stages of development. This is our absolute priority is getting mitigation back to coastal Louisiana and we decided on that three years ago as we thought it was absolutely foolish, knowing our industry, and we went ahead and made a leap to come down here if I can provide y'all with some private mitigation to these projects. We made that commitment three years ago and we purchase a piece of land that is familiar to a lot of you here, we call the Jesuit Bend Mitigation Bank, and it is on that eastward bend of the river, right behind the Jesuit Bend community and then you have a lake back there where the Ollie Pump Station is. That is approximately a 1000 acres and we purchased this portion of it right there so we own that in feet and what we intend to do, and we are attempting to turn this into what is called a mitigation act, to provide other people with mitigation on our [Inaudible] and those are called credits. These are all credits out here and that's what the AHHU is all about , you try to develop and help the AHHU needs. The plan out here is to take material from a private permit sandpit up here in the river, pump it on the levee back through this way or potentially now we are looking to come down the batcher, the levee side of the levee, and hanging the pipe long there. We have an easement through the community here on this strip of trees. We probably only have one or two pieces of property that we will need to cross to do the project. It will require the transfer of 1.8 million cubic yards of sand, but we did some math on that and if you put that on the football field it will be taller than any building on earth. So it's amazing to see how much material that it and this is a fairly expensive operations, then we will spread it out here with approximately additional three to four feet of material here to create marsh. Actually prior to that, excuse me, we will take the dark richer mucky material and move those into the swamp and open water areas here to stabilize its degradation, and then take sand to fill those same areas we burrowed out in there, bring it all even and then add another three to four feet here and basically make a big, brand new beach here. This will be marsh and this will be revitalized swamp. We came down here because we want to do three things. We want to come up with projects that have ecological integrity, be more consistent with the Louisiana master plan and those practices and that's taking the form of using river sediment, which is the preferred method and scientifically justified and supported, but the third is that we also wanted to serve people and making it so people to service the local community and provide what we call eco-system services, where it's not just the birds and the bees and the bunnies in the alligators are getting something out of it, but people too. That's why we are putting it here in order to deprive some wave continuation for the storms, just a little bit more speed bump. Now we would have preferred, there's a little less speed bump in this area right here, but there are a number owners and it would take us a couple of years to work our way through that, but we think that these are sufficient in Barataria Bay in South Louisiana so eventually mitigate and restore this entire area. After it's restored and put under a permanent conservation

servitude so that no one can ever damage it again, and it will have long-term maintenance fund that will accompany it so it will be cared for well into the future and have monitored reports issued for the next 20 years and we stay in the game for a minimum of seven years when we do this kind of project. We are required to receive the credits to be involved with it over, we don't receive all the credits at once, we receive them over seven years so in order for us to complete our project…we are not construction, we are everything from development, to acquisition to engineering to the implementation and most importantly, the long-term care of it. We would very much appreciate any support that folks have before this project and how important it is to the Corps in analyzing their options and the 1998 Water Resources Development Act requires the Corps to consider mitigation banks in the mix of available options for them. So any encouragement we can hear from anyone in the audience to complete this project, we reply to those in the community and the parish government. We know that President Nungesser is a supporter; we just want to start getting the word out that we are going to try to do this good work and want as much support as possible. Work with us and [Inaudible] will be moving down here with us and we are opening an office in New Orleans and we were over there in a new office today. We are never going to be locals but we have a big commitment here, we've spent a lot of money and we are going to spend a lot of money and we will stick with you for the next 20 years if we have to.

Worth Ceech with Restoration Systems: I'm just going to add when we fill this in this grade will be [Inaudible] naturally, we've planned all of our stresses. We have a fisheries channel that will run from here with two bodies of water and hopefully one day fill it all in. Once we get the more suitable material in the cypress trees and right now there is no dry land there, these cypress trees are here and they mostly dying and they are not going to regenerate so we want to build that up.

George Howard: Obviously folks, this was originally was marsh, some [Inaudible], God did not put a square foot here. We are interested in any background and ol' timers or folks who heard from your parents, what's going on down here and we still haven't gotten it down as there is some combination of indigo farm, cypress, and …we've heard everything in the world and I'm still not sure exactly what the sequence was. That's our story and we've got cards, brochures. Thank you very much.

Warren Lawrence: If you go back to the pumping station you said the new pumping station at the barrier that will replace the one that's currently at Wilkerson…where did that pumping station [Inaudible] discharge into?

Nicole Harris (USACE): I'm sorry can you repeat the last part of the questions?

Warren Lawrence: The pumping station at the bottom, where will it be relocated and where will the discharge go to?

Nicole Harris (USACE): The first plan will be to move it back here [Inaudible] so the pump station is going to go back here.

Male Speaker: The discharge will be out to the marsh area, but I don't have the drawings for the types here.

Male Speaker: I just want to ask one question. Apparently this is the only funded project you have on the layout. Where you are starting and ending from north to south you are going to come back up near the highway yourself , are we actually going to tie into the river levee at the end of that project or are we going just to the highway and being on the west side of the highway? In other words, when you are starting you are going to be below Belle Chasse and as it goes across the road it ties into the river federal levee. Now you have to go just below that and build another levee – you are going to start at the river levee and circle the back of the property right?

Nicole Harris (USACE): So you are asking where we are protecting down here? Basically our protection right now will come along and stay along the western side of the highway, parallel the highway, and then tie into…you see here, this is Highway 23 and this, right now based on current funding is where we anticipate it will tie into the Mississippi River levee.

Male Speaker: So you will build another gate or build up the road to match up the height of the levee?

Nicole Harris (USACE): Correct.

Male Speaker: Well then that is above what is always the flood area.

Nicole Harris (USACE): Where does it go across?

Female Speaker: Forward, afterword, before?

Nicole Harris (USACE): It is after this area.

Male Speaker: Below the [Inaudible] about 2000, 3000 feet.

Male Speaker: One last question? Can this station, and I see you had a schedule of projects, the non-federalized portions that are not funded at this point, are we looking at possibly completing them if funded is available by 2017 or are you just talking about the federalized levees that's in that time schedule of being completed by 2-17?

Nicole Harris (USACE): As we go forward with construction of the contracts between now and 2017-2018, we are going to see if the funding becomes available through possible savings, whether it be for borrow or wherever we can find ways to extend protection, we will do that. Again, right now the reaches that aren't being constructed are being designed to the 35% level so the plans are being developed further.

Male Speaker: But at this point, you don't see funding anywhere in the next five to ten years?

Nicole Harris (USACE): No. Again, this is how this point was picked and we had gone through design and come up with estimates and right now that's where we anticipate running out of funds.

Victoria Frierson: The levee take after Katrina, what percentage of the people do you have that y'all have closed their cases yet to settle up the homeowners and you projected in 2017 to be completed with the [Inaudible] but you said that initially have and these people haven't been closed yet and you take more.

Rene Poche (USACE): Are you talking about the claim? We can talk to you a little more after this meeting as we don't have that information here basically so we will have to get it for you and get back to you.

Victoria Frierson: I think people need to know. [Inaudible] because it's not an open and shut case for everyone.

Jason Kaliszeki: Definitely glad we are doing something; it's been a long time and I wish it was more, but I'll take what we have. Is there a map that shows potential mitigation sites and their relationship to the [Inaudible]?

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): At this time there's not prior to finalizing our mitigation plans. Those sites will be released for public review and everyone will have a chance for further input.

Jason Kaliszeki: I was hoping that was something we could see where is the marsh was going to be created by [Inaudible]. The only site that I saw was right behind [Inaudible], which I love it and it gives a buffer zone to our property, which right now a lot of that is water and it takes more than marsh to [Inaudible]and soon to be open waves but the trees will grow and that could knock down that wave action. The levees are just not made for open water, especially water rising and wave action.

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): I understand and certainly that is one of the things we are looking at and considering during this process and urge you again if there are certain areas that any of you would like to see considered, this is the venue to get those out there or use the cards provided and send those in and as in detailed as information as you can provide would certainly help.

Jason Kaliszeki: You mentioned that there will be a time when the sites will be available for us to see.

Daniel Sumerall (USACE): As we select our tentatively selected mitigation sites we would have to address those in another environmental document and that document will be available to the public for review.

Rene Poche (USACE): Thank you again for coming out tonight and if there is something that you want to get on the record, please use those cards and drop those in mail. Thank you.