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STATE OF LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI RIVER HYDRODYNAMIC AND DELTA
MANAGEMENT STUDY

The Public Scoping Meeting conducted by the Louisiana Coastal Committee taken at Boothville-Venice Elementary School, Boothville, Louisiana on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 6:05 p.m.

Reported by:
Tara Torres-Blank
Certified Court Reporter

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

MS. MUELLER:

Good evening. Thank you very much. My name is Lee Mueller.

So, as you can see, this is our fourth of six public scoping meetings. Please share this with your friends if you feel they'd be interested in attending any of the meetings in Waveland or St. Bernard.

All right. So to go over what we'll be discussing this evening, first, we'll start with an overview of Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Program (LCA). Some of you guys may be familiar with that.

And then we'll move into some details about the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study. And then Sandy Stiles will

1 come up and go over the National Environmental
2 Policy Act, Public Scoping Process, which is
3 really why we're here this evening, to gather
4 your input on the study.

5 Now, we understand sometimes our
6 presentations can be really heavy on the
7 science and engineering, so we will have a
8 question and answer session. Sara will have
9 a walk around mic. Just go ahead and raise
10 your hand and then we'll come on over.

11 Now, if you don't have a question, but you
12 do have a comment, a complaint maybe or maybe
13 even a compliment, we will have the formal
14 scoping comment session. This is your
15 opportunity to get your comment included in
16 the official record.

17 We do have a Court Reporter here with us
18 this evening and she will capture your comment.

19 Just to reiterate, we are here tonight to
20 get your input on the initiation of the
21 Louisiana Coastal Area and Mississippi River
22 Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study.

23 With that, I'd like to present Rene Sanders
24 from CPRA to start our presentation.

25 **MS. SANDERS:**

Hi! Good evening! My name is Rene

1 Sanders. I'm the Study Manager for CPRA on
2 the project and I'd like to go over some of
3 the basics for LCA.

4 The LCA stands for Louisiana Coastal Area.

5 It was a project -- a report that was completed
6 at the end of 2004, beginning of 2005. It
7 outlined some of the 5 to 10-year near-term
8 projects and it also talked about some longer
9 term large-scale projects and those were ones
10 -- there were six of them that were listed
11 in the report. This study combines two of
12 those six projects.

13 This map is a -- it shows the projects that
14 were listed in the LCA report, the 15-year term
15 projects. Most of these have not been built.

16 Two of them have and that's Caenarvon and Davis
17 Pond.

18 The rest of the projects that are shown
19 on there are in various stages of completion.

20 Some are still in design, some are still in
21 feasible, meaning we're still evaluating the
22 benefits and the impacts to some of the
23 projects.

24 Myrtle Grove is one. White Ditch is
25 another. Both of those are still being
studied.

1 Some of the other projects, the
2 modification to Caenarvon and modification to
3 Davis Pond, those are also being analyzed under
4 the LCA Project.

5 This map shows the proposed study area.

6 It begins somewhere around the Gulf of Mexico
7 in the Bird's Foot area and extends north to
8 Vicksburg, and that's to include some of the
9 modeling domain that's needed to capture some
10 of the intricacies at the Old River Control
11 Structure.

12 There's a little area to the southwest,
13 along the Gulf of Mexico and that's to capture
14 the longshore drifts, some of the sediment and
15 nutrients that are going along the Gulf of
16 Mexico towards Texas.

17 The project area will be defined in more
18 -- refined once we get further in the process.

19 When we actually pick projects or areas that
20 we're going to have projects, the study area
21 will become smaller, it will be studied more
22 intensely, we'll do some soil conditions,
23 cultural analysis, HTRW, which is your
24 hazardous waste analysis.

25 So there's more analysis that's going to
 go into the report once it's further defined.

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So some quick facts about the study. We're going to say it repeatedly. We're so excited about this. This is the first kill, long scale, long-term project. So I'm just going to reiterate that as well.

The project was authorized under WRDA, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. The end product for this is going to be an environmental impact assessment. It's going to be more or less a tiered off version from the original 2004 report.

It's going to be a more in-depth analysis for the two portions of the study that we're going to be looking at, which is the Hydrodynamic Study, primarily focusing on end river modeling.

And then the Delta Management Study, which is going to look at particular study areas in the basin where we can input sediment and nutrients into the basins.

The cost-share agreement was signed in August of 2011. It's a 50/50 cost-share, so that means the \$25.3 million will be divided equally between the Corps of Engineers paying and the State of Louisiana paying for it.

1 The study is expected to take about five
2 years. It's going to build on existing
3 information. We're not going to start from
4 scratch. The models that are being used are
5 existing models that we will tweak for this
6 particular study's analysis.

7 So as I mentioned before, this study is
8 a combination of two individual projects that
9 were the long-term, large-scale projects. The
10 hydrodynamic portion, we're going to evaluate
11 the Mississippi River.

12 So what that means is that we're going to
13 quantify how much and where the sediment
14 resources are available in the river.

15 We're going to develop tools to analyze
16 those resources over time, as well as
17 spatially, and then we're going to develop or
18 determine the best implementation strategies
19 to maximize the use of the sediment and the
20 water that's available in the Mississippi River
21 for coastal restoration projects.

22 Traditionally, the river has been managed
23 for two services and that's flood protection
24 and navigation. This study has an opportunity
25 to elevate the importance of coastal
restoration and put that on the same level

1 playing field as flood protection and
2 navigation.

3 So the second component of the study is
4 the Delta management component. In the 2004
5 report, it mentioned that the study would look
6 at diversions that were greater than 50,000
7 cfs.

8 This study will look at all ranges of
9 diversions. Anything below 50,000, as well
10 as anything above 50,000.

11 It's also going to look at alternative
12 channel realignments, and understanding that
13 that's a difficult topic, there's a lot of
14 things that will go into that analysis, but
15 that is still an option.

16 The third thing that I'd like to point out
17 with this slide is that there are other measures
18 that we can consider. It's not just
19 diversions, it's not just channel realignment.

20 It could be some kind of outfall management
21 measure, it could be marsh creation, it could
22 be dedicated dredging.

23 So what we plan to do is look at the 2012
24 Master Plan and take what they have learned
25 and the projects that they have analyzed and
look at them a little bit more detailed.

1 Do some additional modeling with the
2 models that will be built for this report, and
3 really look at placement of the restoration
4 features.

5 Whether it'd be a diversion or marsh
6 creation, look at the timing of those
7 restoration projects, where in the river do
8 those projects need to originate.

9 So the Master Plan is going to better
10 inform the placement and operations of
11 diversions. It'll define the measurements,
12 what analysis needed to occur to actually build
13 those projects, and it'll provide the
14 information that is needed for congressional
15 authorization for the projects.

16 With that, I'd like to turn it over to
17 Cherie, and she's going to go into some of the
18 specifics as well.

19 **MS. PRICE:**

20 Thank you, Rene. Hello everyone! I
21 thank you for coming out this evening. My name
22 is Cherie Price. I am the Planner on the study
23 with the Corps of Engineer and along with Danny
24 Reagan, who's not here tonight.

25 So as part of the Corps planning process
on our studies, we develop problems,

1 opportunities, goals and objectives that
2 outline what we're trying to achieve with the
3 study.

4 And I'm going to step through those with
5 you this evening over the next few slides.

6 So the first problem we have Rene touched
7 on a little bit is that historically, there
8 have been two primary focus areas on the
9 Mississippi River, navigation and flood
10 control.

11 With this study, we're looking at adding
12 an additional layer of use for the river, which
13 is coastal restoration and trying to tap into
14 the river's resources for that purpose.

15 We're all familiar with the issues we face
16 in coastal Louisiana, subside and land loss,
17 the erosional processes, disruption of natural
18 deltaic processes in the basin surrounding the
19 river.

20 We currently -- we have a lack of
21 understanding of those delta building
22 processes. Any time you're looking at
23 artificial means to create land, you're dealing
24 with some really complex issues, and as part
25 of this study, we really want to get to the
bottom of that.

1 Once we obtain the river
2 resources and distribute those into the delta,
3 we need to figure out how to keep those resources
4 there for sustainable restoration.

5 The encroachment of the Gulf of Mexico,
6 we're increasing our flood risk in our coastal
7 communities. As subsidence has occurs and sea
8 level rise occurs, the Gulf of Mexico is getting
9 closer and closer to our communities and into
10 people's backyards.

11 And that's something that we're hoping to
12 offset through the study.

13 So this is a really extensive effort. We're
14 looking at systemwide comprehensive modeling
15 that's never been done before on the
16 Mississippi River and the data collection that
17 goes along with that.

18 Harper's Landing is the closest long-term
19 sediment record that we have and that's over
20 300 miles away from the study area. So we have
21 a real need here to go in and collect more
22 suspended sediment data and bedwell data to
23 support the study and support the models that
24 we're taking on.

25 And we're also going to be evaluating the
 basin side impacts to modeling as well.

1 We want to more effectively manage the
2 river resources in order to support those three
3 functions simultaneously, reconnect the
4 Mississippi River resources to the deltaic
5 plan, nourish and sustain.

6 We're not just looking at building marsh
7 that's going to be out there today, we're
8 looking at sustainable marsh that's going to
9 be out there over the 50-year period of analysis
10 and beyond that point.

11 Increase elevations, this is going to be
12 a big objective that I'll touch on a little
13 bit later. That study is keeping up with sea
14 level rise and subsidence.

15 Adjusting bayside hydrology is really
16 referring to basin widths and depths that
17 support land building. How do we slow the
18 water down? How do we slow the -- keep the
19 fine grade sediments, the silt in the system,
20 and build land?

21 It's going to be a big challenge part of
22 the study.

23 So our broad overarching goal for the study
24 is basically just to reconnect the river, to
25 get those resources back out into the deltaic
plane where it's needed and to do that in balance

1 with our current missions of navigation and
2 flood control.

3 The study objectives get down to business.
4 These are the real specific targets that we're
5 trying to achieve through the study.

6 The first one is to figure out how much
7 of the resource is there. What's available
8 for restoration?

9 How much of that resource can we remove
10 from the river without negatively impacting
11 navigation and flood control?

12 How much can we dredge? How much water
13 and sediment can we remove effectively with
14 diversions?

15 We want to provide a decision making
16 framework. All of those models and the data
17 and the tools that I just spoke to you earlier,
18 we need to put all of that together and help
19 us make informed decisions in a positive way.

20 This is probably the most importance
21 objective and it's part of the delta management
22 component of the study, which is to increase
23 -- to achieve a sustainable net positive
24 elevation relative to sea level rise and
25 subsidence.

That's it. With that, I'll hand it over

1 to Sandy Stiles.

2 **MS. STILES:**

3 Good evening! I appreciate you guys
4 taking time out of your business schedules to
5 come here tonight to hear what we have to say.

6 And, more importantly, provide your input.

7 So we're really appreciative of that.

8 The National Environmental Policy Act
9 (NEPA) of 1969 was basically enacted to allow
10 the public and the agencies to have an input
11 into our planning process prior to us making
12 decisions and to provide input on how those
13 studies would be carried out.

14 So part of that process is the requirement
15 that there will be an early and open process
16 called scoping, which is the reason why we're
17 here tonight, so that we can get you involved
18 from the very get go of the study and hear what
19 you have to say to help guide the report and
20 the study and the manner that it needs to go.

21 The NEPA requires that whenever there's
22 a major federal action that the federal agency
23 prepare an environmental impact document. It
24 can be an environmental assessment or an
25 E.I.S., which in this case, that's what we're
preparing is an E.I.S. that would disclose the

1 impacts of the action and that includes
2 natural, human biological impacts.

3 It's not just purely on a biological.
4 So the schedule for the E.I.S., the Notice of
5 Intent was published March 23rd of this year.
6 We're going through the scoping process right
7 now.

8 This is the fourth of six scheduled and
9 we would need your comments, if to get it into
10 a scoping report, within 30 days.

11 The actual scoping period really lasts
12 throughout the study, all the way, you know,
13 until we get to a final E.I.S.

14 But if you'd like to see your comments and
15 stuff incorporated into the scoping report,
16 we would need you to submit those within 30
17 days.

18 The draft E.I.S. is expected in November
19 of 2015 and the final is January 2016.

20 As I said, the scoping was initiated with
21 a publication in the federal register. We're
22 inviting --the whole reason why we're here
23 tonight is we want to hear from you.

24 To guide the study, we need to know what's
25 important to you, what you think is not
important. We don't want to waste a lot of

1 time on issues or in resources that you don't
2 think are important and it'll help us to produce
3 a better study and have a better report.

4 As I said, there's going to be a scoping
5 report. It's an opportunity. We're going to
6 pull all of the information and the comments
7 received during these scoping meetings and pull
8 them into a document.

9 And if you're interested in receiving a
10 copy of that report, just let us know and we'll
11 make sure that when it's completed that we'll
12 send it to you.

13 Now, we're going to start the Q and A
14 session.

15 **MS. MUELLER:**

16 So we recognize that our presentation can
17 be very technical, so the team is going to come
18 on up to the panel, which is you guy's
19 opportunity to ask any questions you may have.
20

21 They can respond to your questions. This
22 is different from scoping. During scoping,
23 they cannot respond to your statement or
24 questions. So if you have anything, this would
25 be the time for that.

Sara is behind you. She has a cordless

1 mic, so just go ahead and raise your hand.

2 **MR. MARIJOVICH:**

3 I'm Byron Marijovich. I'm from Buras.
4 First of all, I'd like to thank you-all.
5 (Inaudible.)

6 **MS. PRICE:**

7 As part of the hydrodynamic component of
8 the study and the focus on the river. I don't
9 actually have the specifics on which we're
10 collecting information, but beyond that, we
11 will be taking a look at it. Tim, do you have
12 anything to add to that?

13 **MR. TIM:**

14 (Inaudible.)

15 **THE COURT REPORTER:**

16 I can't hear.

17 **MS. PRICE:**

18 Speak louder, Tim.

19 **MR. TIM:**

20 Well, what I'm just trying to
21 say basically is that, as you-all well know,
22 we have worked close to the west side of the
23 river and also some on the east side and I would
24 ask you-all, if you're looking at you know,
25 subsidence.

It's something you-all may want to look

1 at, and I know it is something that affects
2 our areas and something you may want to look
3 at.

4 **MR. RAGAS:**

5 My name is Ken Ragas. I'm from Buras.
6 How will the dredging that is used affect the
7 saltwater fishing industry?

8 **MS. PRICE:**

9 Was the question how will freshwater
10 become a danger to saltwater fishing? Is that
11 what your question was? I had a little bit
12 of a hard time hearing you.

13 **MR. RAGAS:**

14 Yeah. I'm very familiar with the area in
15 Buras. I've been involved in CWPPRA for 20
16 years and I am in favor of using pipeline
17 dredge material for restoration and opposed
18 to river diversions.

19 There are many river diversions on the east
20 bay. That whole area has saltwater estuary
21 to the freshwater estuary. They shut down a
22 million dollar oyster industry.

23 **MS. MUELLER:**

24 Sir?

25 **COURT REPORTER:**

Actually, can he come up here? I'm having

1 a very difficult time in hearing them.

2 **THE COURT REPORTER:**

3 Could you-all hear what he was saying?

4 **BOARD MEMBER:**

5 No.

6 **THE COURT REPORTER:**

7 Okay.

8 **MS. MUELLER:**

9 So we do have a formal scoping session
10 after this where you can -- she can collect
11 for the scoping report, but it's questions
12 right now?

13 **LCPRA:**

14 Did you-all hear his initial first
15 question?

16 **BOARD MEMBER:**

17 No.

18 **LCPRA:**

19 He's saying the west side of the
20 Mississippi River currently has a thriving
21 saltwater fishery. He wanted to know if our
22 diversions are going to completely divert that
23 to a freshwater fishery?

24 And he also stated that he would prefer
25 that we use dedicated dredging instead of
converting a saltwater fishery to a freshwater

1 habitat.

2 **THE COURT REPORTER:**

3 How about what?

4 **LCPRA:**

5 He wants to know the cost comparison
6 between dedicated dredging and building a
7 diversion.

8 **BOARD MEMBER:**

9 Mr. Ragas, thank you very much for your
10 comments. We've certainly seen you at a number
11 of these meetings and appreciate your
12 dedication for what we're all talking about
13 here today.

14 Certainly, I believe what you were
15 probably referring to was some of the larger
16 diversions listed in the state's Master Plan.

17 And, you know, they're some big ones, and
18 absolutely, do those sizes and types of
19 diversions would effect some change.

20 But I think that if, -- I guess, Number
21 One, we have to weigh that it is the change
22 that might occur if we don't do anything and
23 we know if we don't do anything, we're going
24 to continue to lose lands in Southwest
25 Louisiana.

And we are going to continue to be at risk

1 for decreasing in storm surges and, you know,
2 ultimately, we'll have another flood. As you
3 said, there's not much wetlands between the
4 barrier islands and river now.

5 A large part of that is because those
6 wetlands are isolated from the river and I think
7 that, you know, one of the things we want to
8 do with this is refine and investigate further,
9 you know, the things that we're talking about
10 doing with the large diversions in the Master
11 Plan.

12 So this study, I would say, you
13 know, we're not starting from scratch. I don't
14 think that we're doing anything over, but we're
15 going to start from what we know, the things
16 we proposed and further refine the information
17 related to those diversions to make sure that
18 we're moving ahead appropriately and
19 accurately.

20 I can tell you that, again, at least in
21 the Master Plan analysis, you know, you had
22 talked about the cost between marsh creation
23 and diversions.

24 And I don't know those figures off the top
25 of my head, but I do know that out of the \$50
million dollars that was estimated and spent

1 to accomplish everything that's listed in the
2 Master Plan, about \$20 million of that was
3 strictly marsh creation.

4 The number of diversions that you saw
5 listed on the Master Plan, I think were at the
6 cost of about \$4 million dollars.

7 So we're talking five times as much for
8 marsh creation as we are for freshwater and
9 sediment diversion, primarily sediment
10 diversions listed in the Master Plan, and I
11 can get you the information on agencies versus
12 cost and so forth.

13 I don't know that off the top of my head.

14 All that is listed in the Master Plan. Thank
15 you.

16 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

17 My name is Fred Toups. I want to know is
18 there any plan on rebuilding the beach at Shell
19 Island?

20 **BOARD MEMBER:**

21 I'm sorry? I couldn't hear your question.

22 **LCPRA:**

23 Rebuilding the beach at Shell Island.

24 **THE COURT REPORTER:**

25 A what?

LCPRA:

1 Rebuilding the beach at Shell Island.

2 **BOARD MEMBER:**

3 Will we rebuild the beach? Yeah. At this
4 point, nothing's been finalized and determined
5 at this point.

6 **BOARD MEMBER:**

7 Yeah. So; yes. There are plans to
8 rebuild Shell Island. Shell Island is one of
9 them on the Shoreline Project, which is one
10 of the near-term projects identified for --
11 within this program. So, yes.

12 **BOARD MEMBER:**

13 There's currently -- We're designing a
14 Shell Island restoration project. So yeah,
15 that is in the works. We just have to wait
16 for that funding to go through. Yes, sir.
17 So that's currently under design right now.

18 **THE COURT REPORTER:**

19 I'm having a hard time even hearing you
20 on the mic up there.

21 **MS. MUELLER:**

22 Really?

23 **THE COURT REPORTER:**

24 All -- yeah. Yeah, it's very difficult.

25 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

Also, you-all need to think about is

1 setting up a diversion the locks.

2 **MS. MUELLER:**

3 Can you hear?

4 **THE COURT REPORTER:**

5 No. He's saying --

6 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

7 I brought that up at the meeting before
8 Katrina. I brought that up.

9 **THE COURT REPORTER:**

10 Actually, let me move my table.

11 **MS. MUELLER:**

12 Can I quickly intercept? Is this maybe
13 more appropriate to capture in the scoping
14 comment?

15 **BOARD MEMBER:**

16 Yeah. I was going to interject that, you
17 know, we really have, for the past several
18 minutes, been more comments than question,
19 which is kind of -- we've been doing a Q & A
20 session. If you want your comments to get
21 captured, we -

22 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

23 Before you do it, I have one more question
24 here. All right. Now, this study is not going
25 to change anything in the Master Plan; correct?
Even though the Master Plan has not been

1 adopted yet by the legislature, I know it's
2 an up or down vote.

3 **BOARD MEMBER:**

4 No; correct.

5 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

6 For what the Master Plan stands for now?
7 So there's no consideration of even studying
8 smaller diversions? Just the larger
9 diversions; correct?

10 **BOARD MEMBER:**

11 No, there's the consideration for both.

12
13 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

14 There is a consideration for both?

15 **BOARD MEMBER:**

16 Yes, but this study is not, and then I could
17 be out of turn, but this --

18 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

19 It was one of the slides, is studying large
20 scale diversions?

21 **BOARD MEMBER:**

22 This study is not going to change the 2012
23 Master Plan; right.

24 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

25 Okay.

BOARD MEMBER:

1 The update in probably about five years
2 from now.

3 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

4 But the study will look at it, the effects
5 of the smaller diversions, not just the larger
6 diversions?

7 **MS. SANDERS:**

8 Yes. And that's what I meant -- the 50,000
9 cfs that's stated in the 2004 report, we're
10 going to look above and below the 50,000.

11 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

12 Okay. All right. Great.

13 **MS. SANDERS:**

14 It was just a target. Yeah.

15 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

16 Somebody help me here remember. When was
17 Caenarvon opened?

18 **MS. SANDERS:**

19 '91.

20 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

21 Okay. A lot of the slides we looked at
22 in the beginning, you were reading the slides
23 at that time, the lack of information and we
24 need more information on this.

25 Are we not just going back over doing the
same studies? Surely, these studies were done

1 before Caenarvon was constructed?

2 **MS. SANDERS:**

3 Well, I think we've learned a lot since
4 Caenarvon was built. Now, there have been some
5 specific pulping scenarios that have been done
6 at Caenarvon and information was collected
7 there.

8 But so far, it's shown a disproportionate
9 effect of the freshwater on the marsh health
10 there, like the freshwater and the effect on
11 salinities and how that's affected the marsh.

12 So we have more work to do to understand those
13 processes more.

14 We're understanding the importance of that
15 as time has passed and as that diversion in
16 Davis Pond has been operating, we're seeing
17 that we have more work to do.

18 **BOARD MEMBER:**

19 And I believe we've never done a
20 comprehensive look before. You know, all the
21 other time we've done something, it's been
22 right in the vicinity of wherever the project
23 went.

24 And I think this project is going to build
25 that hydraulic model that's going to be able
to look at all of the diversions on the river

1 everywhere and see where the best place to get
2 the sediment from and that's how can do that.

3 **BOARD MEMBER:**

4 I'm sorry. I was just going to add to what
5 Darrell said. That's from sort of a riverside
6 impact perspective.

7 So we have done a lot of work and we've
8 learned a lot from a bay side perspective, but
9 we don't know very much about is what's going
10 on in the river, what's available to us and
11 what happens, you know, to the river if we build
12 a bunch of the large diversions that we've
13 talked about in the Master Plan.

14 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

15 And unfortunately, we've learned a lot of
16 the ineffectiveness of Carnarvon and Davis
17 Pond. It's not doing what it was proposed to
18 have done. Just like the freshwater
19 diversions at West Point a la Hache.

20 **BOARD MEMBER:**

21 Well, those were designed to maintain
22 certain salinity radiance for wildlife
23 fishery.

24 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

25 We're actually looking at diversions now
to help build land, when these other costs for

1 sediment diversions.

2 We've got a Myrtle Grove Project that's
3 actually looking at a dedicated dredging
4 component that's going to be with it.

5 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

6 How can we use the river better than what
7 we have? The larger diversions are actually
8 going to help us.

9 **BOARD MEMBER:**

10 But then the large scale, long-term things
11 that we can't dredge our way out of where are
12 right now, but these long-term projects of how
13 we can use the river is what we're trying to
14 capture.

15 **BOARD MEMBER:**

16 If I could interrupt you one second.
17 She's got to have it down there. We're not
18 going to have it captured.

19 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

20 I got you. Just a second. I got you.

21 **BOARD MEMBER:**

22 It's not going to count as a public meeting
23 if she can't hear it and record it, so we're
24 going to need to speak up so she's got it down
25 there or we're going to have to move you to
the middle or something.

1 Since we decided to change format.

2 **BOARD MEMBER:**

3 Loudly and clearly and one at a time,
4 please.

5 **MS. MUELLER:**

6 What we can do is capture the formal
7 scoping comments that's right now with the
8 microphone and then we can all talk about
9 questions.

10 **BOARD MEMBER:**

11 We'll stay as long as you guys want us to.

12 Absolutely!

13 So do we want to pass the mic down and you guys
14 can state --

15 Just ask your questions in blank order or
16 your comments. And state your name.

17 **MR. THOMAS:**

18 My name is Robert Thomas. I'm from Buras,
19 Louisiana. My statement is that I'm scared
20 to death of these large-scale diversions.

21 If you come into Myrtle Grove, the Bonnet
22 Carre Spillway and you especially the fisheries
23 on the west side of Plaquemines Parish and
24 unfortunately, there's nothing in the Master
25 Plan that addresses compensating residents,
oyster fishermen, seafood dealers.

1 There's nothing in here about
2 that.

3 I don't know if it's not scientific yet,
4 I don't know if a small diversion would work.

5 And what is the Bonnet Carre Spillway it's
6 been there for 60 years. But you can get where
7 I'm going with that.

8 **MS. STILES:**

9 Thank you.

10 **MR. MARIJOVICH:**

11 My name is Byron Marijovich. I'm from
12 Buras also. I would encourage you-all to
13 listen to some of the feedback from some of
14 the citizens. We've gone through a lot of
15 study sessions and we ain't got no where.

16 I would encourage you-all to look into some
17 of the parish we made as far as low lined
18 dredging and I've given most of you my card
19 and some of the information for the parish as
20 far as some of the proposals.

21 I also encourage you again to
22 look at the smaller natural diversions as far
23 as like meeting across the river that you might
24 want to look at and see what their cause or
25 what their human thoughts are.

 I feel like something like that.

1 **MS. STILES:**

2 Okay. Any other statements or questions?

3 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

4 Is there any time line on Shell Island or
5 it's still in the talk stages?

6 This is off the Record. I just wanted to
7 get an idea of what's going on.

8 **MS. MUELLER:**

9 You can ask your questions after the formal
10 scoping session is finished.

11 **PUBLIC MEMBER:**

12 I appreciate it.

13 **MS. MUELLER:**

14 Did anyone else have any questions or
15 comments? Oh, comments period. Sorry.

16 **MR. THOMAS:**

17 I wanted to clear something up that was
18 said before. Well, this is reverting back to
19 your question and answer period, if that's
20 okay.

21 When Ken asked you the cost analysis
22 between the diversions and the direct sediment
23 costs. I'm not sure if you-all connected on
24 exactly what he was saying.

25 The cost of a yard of material through
diversion versus the cost of a yard of material

1 through the pipeline. I don't know if you-all
2 were together, but I would love to see that
3 figure also.

4 **MS. STILES:**

5 Maybe we can address that in the future.

6 **MR. THOMAS:**

7 Sure. Absolutely.

8 **MS. MUELLER:**

9 If you have comments and would like to
10 submit comments, verbal or written comments
11 are accepted tonight and by the following
12 means: Email, LCA-MRHDM@usace.army.mil,
13 Or letters postmarked no later than May 4, 2012.

14 (The Meeting was concluded at 7:33 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S PAGE

1
2 I, Tara Torres, Certified Court Reporter, in
3 and for the State of Louisiana, the officer, as defined
4 in Rule 28 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and/or
5 Article 1434(b) of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure,
6 before whom this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby
7 state on the Record:

8 That due to the interaction in the spontaneous
9 discourse of this proceeding, dashes (--) have been used
10 to indicate pauses, changes in thought, and/or talkovers;
11 that same is the proper method for a Court Reporter's
12 transcription of proceeding, and that the dashes (--)
13 do not indicate that words or phrases have been left out
14 of this transcript;

15 That any words and/or names which could not
16 be verified through reference material have been denoted
17 with the phrase "(phonetic)."

18 Tara Torres, CCR
19 Certified Court Reporter

C E R T I F I C A T E

20
21 This certification is valid only for a transcript accompanied
22 by my original signature and original raised seal on this page.

23 That this testimony was reported by me in the Stenomask method
24 (voice-writing), was prepared and transcribed by me or under my
25 personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct
transcript to the best of my ability and understanding;

1 That I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein;
2 am not otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter; and
3 am a valid member in good standing of the Louisiana State Board
4 of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters.

5 Tara Torres (#22012)
6 Certified Court Reporter
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