

GOMA FWG Call Notes
27 September 2012

Roll call:

ACOE – Susan Rees

NASA – Ted Mason

DOI – Patric Harper

BOEM – Pat Roscigno

USGS – Alyssa Dausman, Larry Handley, Kate Spear

NPS – Cherry Green

EPA – Steve Jordan, Drew Puffer, Jerry Boos, John Bowie, Jeanne Allen, Lael Butler

NOAA – Todd Davison, Kristen Laursen, Becky Allee, Marian Hanisko, GP Schmahl, Julien Lartigue

GOMA – Laura Bowie

Navy – Barbara Howe

Presentation by Dr. Susan Reese (see ppt)

MSCIP

- status report; started after Katrina to increase resiliency of coast hurricane storm damage risk reduction, salt water intrusion; closely w/ state to develop vision to guide planning effort – environment, economy and people
- Worked with MS to develop vision with 3 parts: environment, economy, people of the coast (livelihood, culture, quality of life)
- Congress did not dictate how to do; worked w/ delegation and senior leadership to implement plan to involve everyone up front; involved public – about 30 events w/in 45 days to ask where big problem areas were, suggestions for good solutions; about 180 problem sets across 3 coastal counties
- Implemented plan with all agencies and public at the table. The public was asked to identify problem areas and possible solutions.
- Came out of these meetings with a Comprehensive Plan. Looked to integrate how to include hurricane risk reduction elements and combine with non-structural elements and environmental factors for the best solution.
- Immediate solutions vs longer term
- Comprehensive plan – six month report (interim recommendation) looked to integrate across coast to include typical structural; risk reduction – how to combine w/ non-traditional e.g., relocation acquisition
- The plan is envisioned to be a living document with a 30-40 year life-span.
- Interim report to Congress in Dec. 2006. Authorized for 15 projects in May 2007. All of these are complete today. 5 have been turned over to sponsors for maintenance. 10 suffered damage from Isaac and so must be restored.
- Comp plan submitted to Congress in Jan 2010 recommending 12 construction projects. Of these, 1 is a levee project, 2 non-structural projects, and remaining are ecosystem restoration projects. Plan also recommends 53 feasibility reports to provide risk

reduction across MS coast. Total for Phase 1 is 1.2 billion. COE doesn't have authority or \$\$ to implement the plan to date.

- Sample interim projects discussed (e.g., Long Beach, Hancock County and the Pascagoula seawall, BSL seawall)
 - Restoration of Deer Island wasn't originally under the MsCIP plan but has been added. Major effort was to fill breach at west end. Once filled, COE installed vegetation from pine to scrub oak, grasses and shrubs, etc. Planting was finished in mid-April, and a loggerhead nested there in May.
- In June 2009, Congress gave COE authority to being barrier island and ecosystem restoration components. Focusing on Cat and Ship Islands. Plan is restoration of sediment budget of barrier island change sediments. Changed placement of sediment materials from ship channel to benefit islands. Completed restoration of north shore of West Ship.
- Working now (with supplemental EIS being prepared) will place 19 million cubic yards in Ship Island systems to fill Camille Cut. Also working on East Ship to feed closure of the cut over time. Expect to last 30 years w/o maintenance.
- Modifying "Disposal Area" 10 in Pascagoula so that it feeds continually into sediment budget.
- Other restoration projects on mainland are emergent marsh restoration and.... For 3000 acres total.
- Risk reduction components – structural example is levee restoration around Forest Heights in Gulfport. Second component is acquisition of up to 2000 parcels from willing sellers. No authority or funding for this but have 900 people on a list. Plan is once property is acquired in state's name, COE would restore it back to its natural condition prior to development. For upland areas, would provide green space.
- Improved bridge abutments in OS, MS
- Additional seawall protection in Hancock county
- Tidal inlet channels in Hancock county; tied to Jackson marsh area – wooden inlet features destroyed, wetland drying out; reestablished tidal exchange
- Bay St. Louis – reconstruction of seawall
- Beach in front of seawall eroded by Isaac so will be replacing
- Had to remove one large live oak; dug up and replanted in concrete and had chain saw artist carve representative things for area
- Not originally part of MSCIP – restoration of sig part of deer island; fill breach at west end; 1 mil yards of fill protected by geotextile bags; another mil yards down southern shoreline for future dredge replacement – installed about 300 K pieces of vegetation of diff types, finished 15 April – 5th May had loggerhead nesting
- Comp plan – line of defense approach – barrier islands; on to mainland
- June 2009 – Congress gave authority to begin barrier island restoration component; 439 mil; cat and ship major components; part of sediment budget; revised dredge material replacement plan
- Completed restoration of north shore of ship island; designed turbidity protection to protect seagrass bed
- Supplemental EIS for restoration of ship is, Camille cut, east ship island
- Revising dredge disposal plan

- Eastern shore of cat island restoration – on hold b/c BP is now land owner
- Pine savanna res – significant habitat improvement, flood protection

Q&As

- We plant sea oats to make dunes but notice that counties run tractor things that sieve sand, and they run them next to the plants. If they want the dunes to grow, they need to be further away from plants. Do you have a chance to talk to the county maintenance folks?
 - We've talked to them about it but they balance having the dunes in place and providing recreational space. We do provide guidelines but it's difficult.

Presentation by Drs. Chuck Wilson and Mike Carron (see ppt)

GOMRI

- In May 2010 BP announced 500 million over 10 yrs to study oil impacts.
- In mid-June, BP announced first round of grants and gave our 45 million to Gulf institutions. Also announced formation of research board to oversee GOMRI effort. This board was expanded to 20 representatives appointed by BP and GOMA.
- GOMRI had mission established as part of Master Research Agreement. Set in motion study of the effects of DWH impacts to environment. Other objective was to develop improvements to spill mitigation and technology advancements. Also defined in agreement were the 5 research themes: phys, chem, environmental effects of contaminants, improved detection, impacts on public health. Board can adjust themes based on info gaps now and in the future.
- Board members have mix of research and admin experience.
- Block grants went to 149 projects shepherded by LSU, NGI, FIO, AL DISL, NIH. These funds were competed. Beginning to collect data from these grants now.
- RFP 1 and RFP 2 are designed to distribute first 3 years of funds. Needed to maintain near-term samples. RFP 3 was announced to make samples available to whomever asked for them. 17 projects were awarded. They collected blue crab, killifish, sea turtles, seaweed, insects, vegetation, oil, etc. in impacted areas.
- Largest pool of funds was via RFP 1. Consortia had to be composed of 4 institutions and had to include interdisciplinary work on the identified themes. Awarded 110 million to 8 consortia. Funding ranged from 20 million over 3 years to 6 million. Examples of things studied include:
 - Drifters to measure how water particles respond to storms like Isaac.
 - Looking at how oil impacts marsh fauna...
 - large predatory species and accumulation of oil in tissues..
 - Collecting long-term sediment drifting particles to see how oil accumulates.
- RFP 2 proposals have just been reviewed. Received 600 LOIs, 400 proposals. 100 were forwarded to the Research Board and they selected 19 projects. 18.5 million was allocated. Tried to focus on gaps from RFP1
 - Ecosystem impacts on benthic, nekton, dispersants, commercial and recreational fish impacts, etc. tracking spills using satellites
- Already had 55 publications, numerous manuscripts in the works, and presentations at conferences on the ongoing work. 75% of \$\$ stayed in Gulf region.

- Requirement in MRA is expectation that all data will be made available to others. Set up contract with HRI to manage the data that emerges. They will work with scientists to develop metadata and archive.
- Board has high expectation for outreach, education, and comms.
- Annual meeting with scientists is another requirement, and this will take place January 21-23 and will also include NRDA science that can be made public at this time.

Q&As

- Is GOMRI meeting open to the public?
 - Annual meeting is designed for PIs to present to board what you would hear at the conference. Not designed as public meeting. However, conference will include a public evening lecture series.
- Federal involvement associated with collaborations – would like to consider what the federal involvement, connection among agencies for what is going on so that it doesn't appear to be in a vacuum or include redundancies.
 - Big play for fed involvement is where we archive data and make it available to anyone who wants it. Will also be important to make clear what we fund and what the feds are funding. NRDA is a challenge right now b/c agencies can't say a lot. Once that's done, we hope connections will emerge.

Next call October 25th! Please send speaker