

PLAQUEMINES PARISH RESILIENCE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

October 2016



**Foundation
for Louisiana**
At work for resilient communities.

RESTORE
THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA



This document was commissioned by
Foundation for Louisiana. Concordia
LLC composed this document in
collaboration with a Support Team of
organizations listed below.

A “Core Committee” of Plaquemines
Parish residents and stakeholders
contributed content and input to this
planning framework. The Rockefeller
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**Gulf Coast Center
for Law & Policy**

*southern perspective,
national impact, global influence*



September 1st, 2016



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Almost two million people live within Louisiana's coastal wetlands. Those lives and livelihoods are subject to issues caused by continuing coastal land loss and the collapse of the Mississippi River Delta. The loss of coastal marshes and swamps has occurred because of a number of man-made and natural causes and is made worse by increasing sea level rise. For most of America, the coastal threat of land loss due to sea level rise is a problem for the next generation. In Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, residents have watched land disappear into open waters for generations. Plaquemines residents are now facing the critical consequences of centuries of local, State, Federal, and industrial use of the deltaic landscape. Residents require the opportunity to holistically adapt to these environmental changes in order to become more resilient in the face of growing challenges.

While the State's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is developing and implementing projects to preserve and rebuild the coast, these projects will be constructed over the next fifty years. Sensitive to both subsidence and sea level rise, these projects will not be able to protect all residents across the coast where the land has already largely disappeared. Some of the most underserved communities in Plaquemines Parish are among those facing the need to mitigate, adapt and consider migration options while looking to future opportunities.

This resilience planning framework outlines a method to invest in community-centered solutions that empower Plaquemines Parish residents to plan for themselves how to adapt to the changing landscape. The plan centers around a consistent meeting process that pairs the wisdom of the crowd with educational outreach, online resources, and inclusive thinking around aspects of community health and multiple lines of defense.

This planning framework was developed during the first half of 2016 by a "Support Team" of nonprofits and planners and a "Core Committee" of Plaquemines leaders. The Support Team, organized and led by Foundation for Louisiana and Restore the Mississippi River Delta, also includes Concordia, Environmental Defense Fund, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, National Wildlife Federation, Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy, and Gulf Restoration Network. The Core Committee includes local leaders ranging from school board members to engaged fishermen, faith-based leaders and homeowner associations to the neighbor whose voice is recognized as they remain up to date and informed.

This framework recommends a seven meeting engagement process for the Plaquemines community to analyze information, identify needs & opportunities, and recommend projects, policies and other support services necessary to effectively adapt to increased risk, land loss and sea level rise in the coming century. These meetings include large, parish-wide meetings at critical points throughout that timeline where important information will be communicated simply and residents from across the parish and region will have the opportunity to work together to solve local issues. Between those parish-wide meetings, a number of community planning meetings provide space for residents to access information and propose solutions at venues where they feel most comfortable.

The engagement and planning process will work towards the creation of a parish-wide and regionally aligned plan that presents a comprehensive and holistic adaptation plan from the community for the coming century. Upon completion, the Support Team will work with residents to pursue identified policy changes and funding for recommended projects. The process expects to invite participation from government agencies and the completed plan will be shared with local, state, and federal agencies as well as potential non-governmental organizations (NGO) funders for integration into their ongoing efforts to restore the Louisiana coast.

At the mouth of the Mississippi River, Plaquemines Parish is on the front lines of sea level rise and prepared to propose mitigation and adaptation options. This planning effort is an early opportunity to invest in community-centered solutions to adapt to rising seas. Plaquemines Parish can serve as an example for coastal Louisiana, the rest of the country and the world for how to plan for a future with water.



INTRODUCTION

Over the course of the last 82 years, Louisiana has lost land equivalent to the area of Delaware. For Louisiana residents, that amount of land is equal to all of St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Ascension, East Baton Rouge and East Feliciana parishes combined, land which took 1,500 years for the Mississippi River to build. Now, the Louisiana coast slips into the Gulf at a rate of a football field every hour. This rapid land loss has been caused by our shared choice to control the Mississippi River, where its delta grows in the Gulf of Mexico, and allowing canals to be carved through the wetlands. These choices resulted in sinking or subsidence, the landward movement of saltwater, also known as saltwater intrusion, land loss, increased flood risk, and threaten the long term security and growth of the region. Decision makers at all levels of government and industry prioritized short term benefits while overlooking or ignoring long term social and economic costs of controlling the delta.

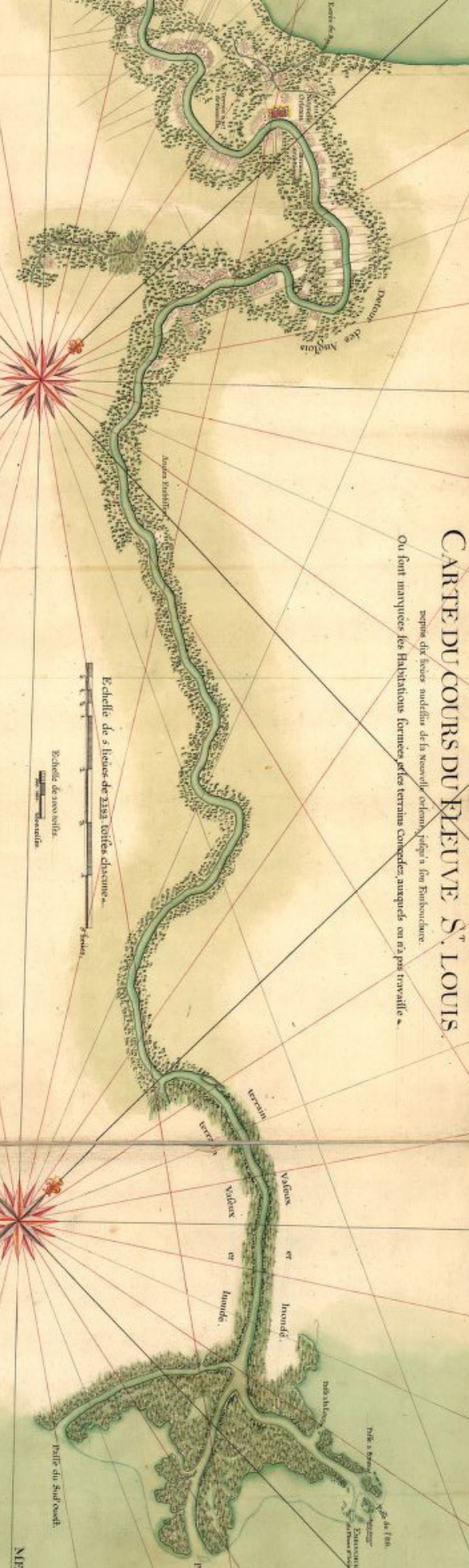
Residents in Plaquemines Parish are now facing the consequences of these decisions. Straddling the final 70 miles of the Mississippi River and surrounded by the Gulf on three sides, Plaquemines Parish is sinking, just as the sea level is beginning to rise. The challenges that other coastal communities will face this century are presented here in fast-forward. Relative sea level rise, which is a combination of the sinking of land and rising seas, and saltwater intrusion compound each other to accelerate land loss and quickly increase flood risk.

Complicating the situation, the increase in relative sea level rise rates in the Parish are deeply rooted in US navigation interests, engineered flood protection, oil and gas industry development, and federal and state policies that regulate the river and coastal businesses. The 23,000 residents of the Plaquemines Parish have had little say in the plans that impact their future, a future now in jeopardy.

While the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and other state agencies work thoroughly on future versions of the Coastal Master Plan and protection projects along the coast, not all communities in Plaquemines will be effectively protected by these restoration, protection, and resilience projects. Many models predict that the mouth of the Mississippi will move upriver and the lower portion of the Parish will return to the Gulf.

During early 2016, a “Support Team” of non-profits and a “Core Committee” of Plaquemines residents developed a resilience planning framework for residents to plan for their future.

This resilience planning process is an opportunity for Plaquemines residents to set their own course, to face the changing and complicated effects that land loss and restoration efforts will have on life in Plaquemines. This is a vital moment for residents to determine their own future and to create a replicable national model for self-governing resilience planning in the face of sea level rise.



Mississippi River Delta, 1732, watercolor on paper
Attributed to Jean-Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville
Source: <https://www.battlemaps.u>

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The engagement and planning process recommended in this document is, first and foremost, self-governing. The guiding idea and approach to community-based planning is to trust the wisdom of the crowd and foster bottom-up solutions. In this planning model, the role of experts and planners is to provide information and organizational structure; they are not decision makers. Parish residents and stakeholders will identify the core community needs and work together towards creative solutions.

The next century of change will impact fishing, navigation, oil, and construction economies, as well as the social, cultural, educational, and organizational systems within Plaquemines Parish. The forces at work among and between these systems cannot be understood by only a few studies, or reduced to economic data. How to plan and prepare for the future of 23,000 citizens should be made by traditional, local experts – the citizens themselves.

Using the best information available about projected flood risk, land loss, insurance rates, and other information residents request, the community will discuss all of the total consequences of the changing landscape and create recommendations for policies and projects to help protect, mitigate, or adapt to the future ahead.

This work is filled with powerful emotional weight, enormous economic implications, complex legal dilemmas, and dozens of parties from all levels of the public, private, and non-profit sector. Thus, the inclusive engagement and planning approach involves inviting all local parties to the table, to work towards a community solution in an open, collective, and reliable way.

This project focuses on resident-led, resident-centered design and development. This process is designed to empower residents and stakeholders to plan their community's future, and to influence State and Federal projects to reflect the will, the vision, and the values of local people.

When an entire community is involved in shaping a plan, awareness, understanding, and political momentum is allowed and encouraged to emerge from the group. Connections are created between people and groups that might otherwise not work in partnership. This process requires more time, effort and resources than one-sided decision making but results in plans that more sensitively guide future projects. In contrast, one-sided plans can easily end up abandoned without comment or become delayed in resistance during implementation.

As to the quality of the results, research proves that the wisdom of crowds produces better solutions than a small group of experts if the following conditions are ensured: diversity of opinion, independence of members, decentralization, and a good method of combining opinions. Conversely, the cost of not listening to those impacted by projects of this magnitude are enormous.

In this self-governing planning process, Plaquemines Parish residents will create for themselves a plan for their future. Consequently, our approach involves inviting all local parties to the table, to work towards a community solution in an open, collaborative, and

authentic way.

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WHY PLAQUEMINES PARISH?

Aside from its natural beauty, rich history, and strong community, Plaquemines Parish is also extremely significant to the region, Louisiana, and the country. The Parish is a hub for international trade, supplies a generous portion of the nation's energy and produces the majority of Louisiana's seafood.

Annually, 500 million tons of cargo enter and exit the United States through Plaquemines Parish and 53 million tons moved through the Port in 2009.

The oil and gas industries in the Parish account for approximately 25% of the State's compensation revenues, producing 17 million barrels of oil and 105 million cubic feet of gas annually. The Parish is also home to a Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base and the two largest coal terminals in the country.¹

The seafood industry is one of the central drivers of south-Louisiana culture and its tourism economy. The

Parish harbors the largest commercial fishing fleet in the continental U.S., which lands 70 percent of Louisiana's legendary shrimp, oysters, crab, and fish.²

The Parish's wetlands provide the residents of Plaquemines and adjacent Parishes, including the entire New Orleans metropolitan region, with enormous benefit by protecting these communities from storm surge. However, those wetlands continue to subside below the water's surface in the southernmost parts of the parish and efforts to restore the coast look toward a smaller, more sustainable delta. The wetlands are the first line of defense in protecting lives, property, and the

operational hub of the region.

For all of these reasons, disruptions to the land, economy, and people Plaquemines Parish will be felt across the region and country. Working to support its sustainability and resilience in the coming century should be of national interest.



² Plaquemines Parish Comprehensive Master Plan, Community Assessment-Technical Addendum, Section 3





THE SITUATION

Plaquemines Parish is the last land the Mississippi River formed - much of the Parish is less than 500 years old. As Mark Twain put it, the Mississippi Delta is “the youthfulest batch of country that lies around there anywhere.”³

It is also home to the earliest French settlements in Louisiana - La Balize and Fort de la Boulaye - both established in 1699. Ever since, Plaquemines Parish has been crucial to regional and national defense, trade, energy, and seafood. Centuries of alteration to the river and landscape has created a delta that is no longer building land where it is most needed or at a rate that would keep pace with rising sea level. Much of the Parish is subsiding into the Gulf, risks of flooding and storm surge are increasing.

Plaquemines Parish suffered several hurricane and river related floods during the 20th century, and was devastated in 2005 and 2012 when Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Isaac charged through the Parish. Due to human intervention and the natural processes of the delta cycle, the storm-absorbing wetlands that provide Plaquemines residents some protection are disappearing. As the wetlands continue to disappear, storm surge and its effects on communities is projected to become more frequent. As the first line of defense - the coastal wetlands - subside into the Gulf, the Parish is increasingly vulnerable to devastation.

This section attempts to describe the historical causes and anticipated future costs of wetland loss, subsidence, and ever increasing flood risk faced by Plaquemines residents.
continue.

In addition to levees, oil extraction and navigation canals have played a part in disrupting the ecosystems that have nurtured the young, wet land of Plaquemines Parish for a millennia. Extraction accelerated subsidence and canals accelerated saltwater intrusion.

³ Twain, 2004

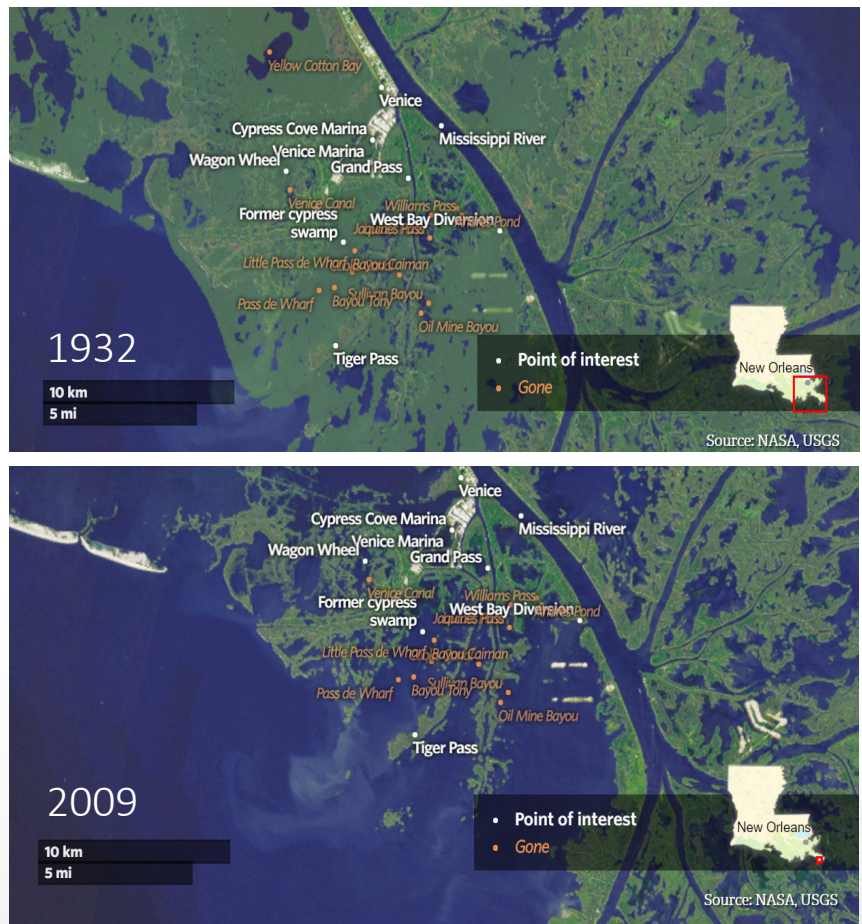
10,000 FOOT VIEW

The threat of sea level rise is most acute in Plaquemines Parish because in addition to rising seas, the Parish sits on sinking land. Subsidence will play a larger role in land loss than rising seas over the next half century, resulting in a total of 4.5 to 7 feet of relative sea level rise. Relative sea level rise is the rate that sea level is rising that is specific to a location. This means that it includes the subsidence rates. For a parish largely near or below sea level already, this prediction is especially threatening.

The most popular protection measure of the past three centuries, levees, have been a main contributor to land loss and subsidence in the Parish. By controlling the course of the Mississippi River, levees prevent flooding that allows freshwater and sediment to build land, causing regional subsidence - nowhere more so than inside the levees themselves. Unrealistically, the only historical solution to subsidence is the very thing levees are designed to stop: water - in particular, muddy water from the Mississippi River.

Because land within the levees has subsided faster than the land outside them, communities now sit in a bowl where they once stood on a ridge. When the levees break or overtop, like they did in 2012, the flood depths can be as high as 12 feet or greater, and the water becomes trapped inside the levee walls.⁴ Even as stronger levees are built, the natural and man-made reasons contributing to subsidence and wetland loss continue.

In addition to levees, oil extraction and navigation canals have played a part in disrupting the ecosystems that have nurtured the young, wetlands of Plaquemines Parish for generations. Extraction accelerated subsidence and canals accelerated saltwater intrusion.



The Bird's Foot 1932 - 2009

Source: Propublica <http://projects.propublica.org/louisiana/> The Lens

**Plaquemines will experience
4.5 to 7 feet of relative sea level
rise over the next 50 years.**

⁴ Alexander-Bloch, 2012

CONTAINING THE RIVER

During the centuries before European settlement, Louisiana's landscape changed continuously. The river, always seeking the shortest path to the Gulf, switched courses often and spread through countless distributaries. With every course change, old land was lost, and new land formed. The river flooded often, blanketing the delta with layers of silt from as far as Montana and Pennsylvania.

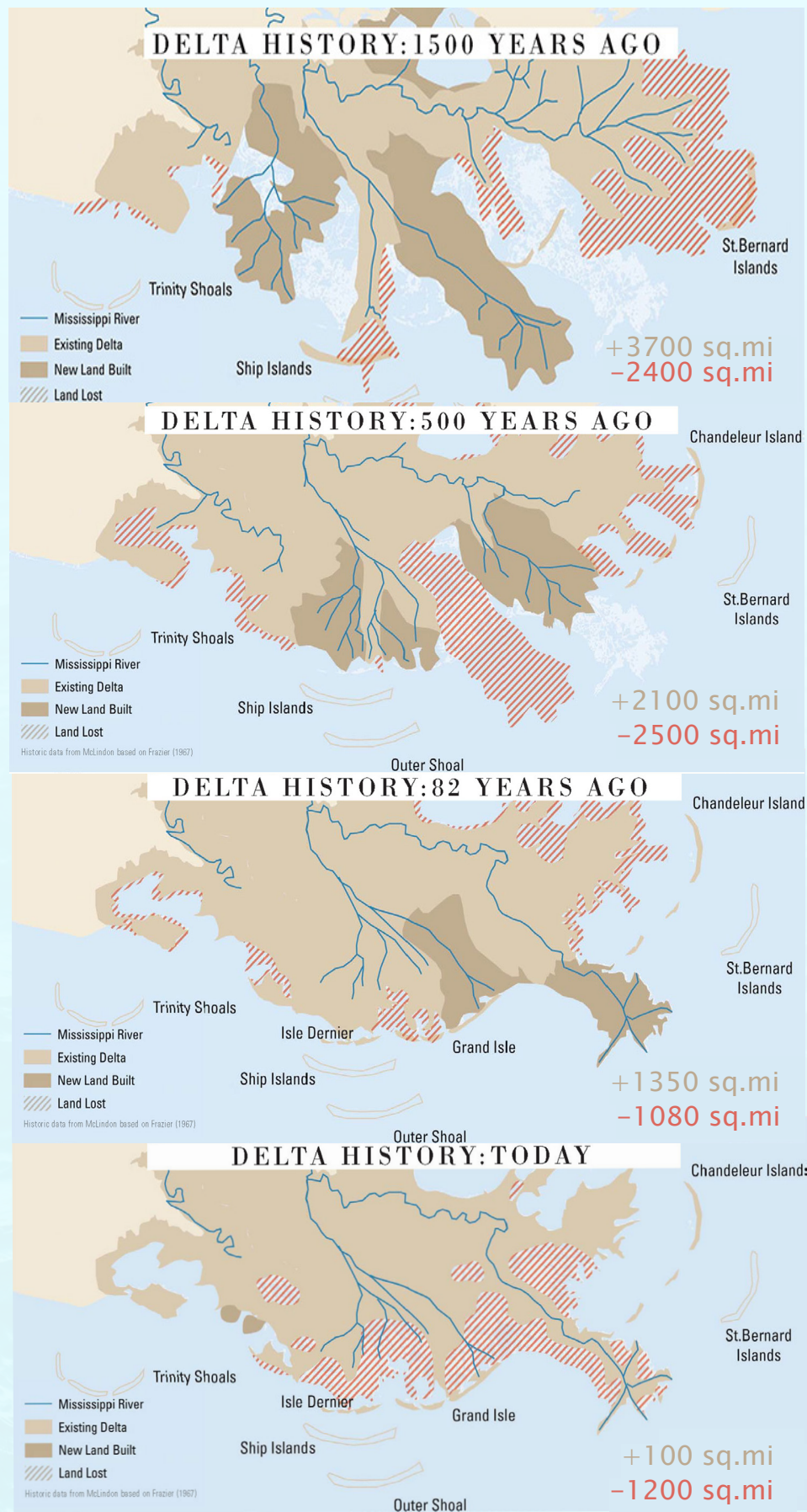
The highest ground in the delta is historically along the river's banks. During river floods, the heaviest sediment settled on the banks, while thinner, lighter silt floated further away into back-swamps. Therefore, the river bank was the sensible place for the first colonizing settlements - high ground, good soil, access to river transportation, and trade control.

Unfortunately, the natural flooding that built and maintained the delta was hazardous for permanent European-style settlements. Some of Beinville's very first works at La Balize and New Orleans in the 1700's involved building up levees, controlling water flow at the Bird's Foot, and generally trying to dry up wet land.⁵

During the centuries since, in an effort to protect property and improve river navigation for maritime commerce, levees were built and rebuilt along the river. Water "that was formerly allowed to spread over many thousand square miles..." became "confined to the immediate channel of the river" which caused the river to flow faster, and "excavate a wider and deeper trench."⁶ Now, sediment that would be building the delta is paving the floor of the Gulf of Mexico.

⁵ Campanella, 2008

⁶ Charles Ellet Jr., 1852



History of the Delta land gain and loss

BAIRD Changing Course Final Report; Historic data from McLindon based on Frazier (1967)

SUBSIDENCE

Without new sediment and fresh water, the delta sinks - subsides. The ground here is like a sponge, when it dries out, it shrinks. The land protected by levees - the high ground by the river - has now subsided faster than the rest of the Parish because it has been kept the driest. Once built on natural ridges, settlements are now in non-natural bowls. Where the first levees were built to resist relatively minor flooding, now they are rebuilt to protect against complete devastation.

Once levees were added and back-swamps drained, developers and residents gained a false sense of security - the "Levee effect" - that led to slab-on grade development in lower lying areas, and ultimately to more human and economic loss. This is one way levees contributed to increased risk.

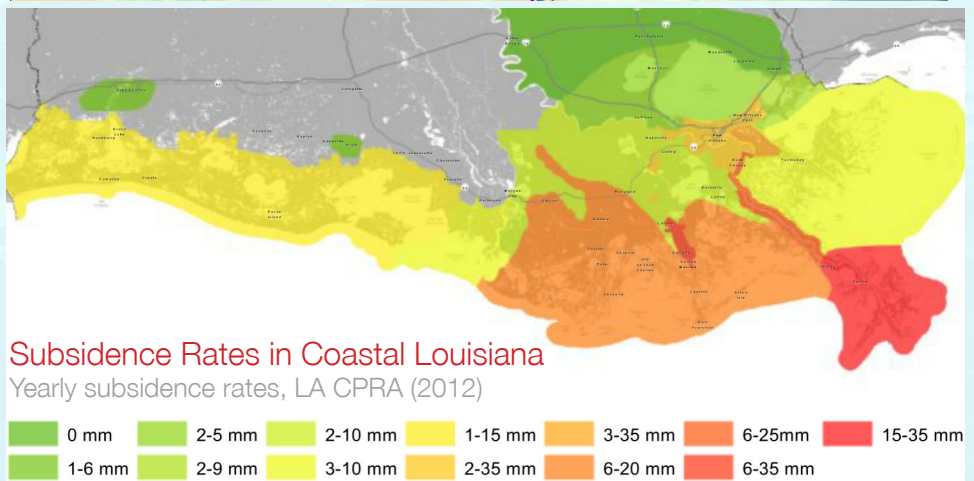
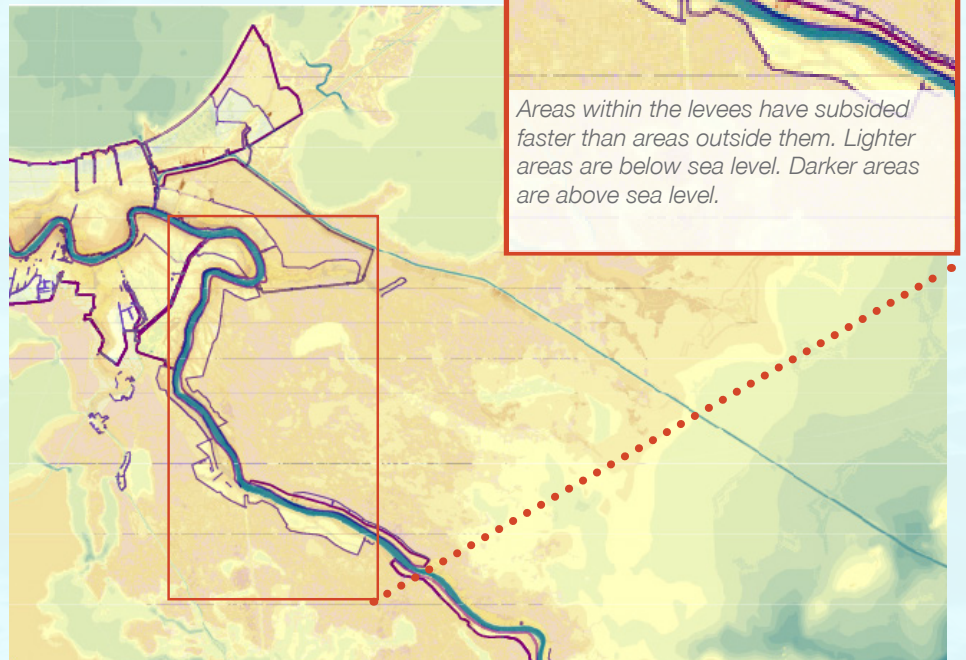
Regionally, the levees prevented the land building and land maintaining process of the river. Like other past deltas that disappeared when the river changed course, the young land in Plaquemines Parish will compact and subside below sea level without the River's networks of bayous and marshes to nourish it.⁵

**The Bird's Foot
sinks 0.6 - 1.4
inches per year.**

5 Campanella, 2008



Mississippi River from Space (MODIS)
May 20, 2008.
<http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/>



SALTWATER INTRUSION

The levees did more than just cause subsidence. By starving the greater south Louisiana wetland ecosystem of a constant flow of fresh water and nutrients, we invited in saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico to work its way into the freshwater landscape.

As freshwater plants die, their roots let go of the land, which then erodes. Fresh bayous turn to saline bays; the increase in open water forms larger waves, lapping at unrooted shores. By preventing fresh water to push against the Gulf, saltwater infiltrates distributaries and bayous, changing the ecosystem.

These wetlands, now disappearing, are the first line defense against storm surge in Plaquemines Parish and the entire New Orleans metropolitan region. Without them, levees will not be enough to protect the region.

CANALS + EXTRACTION

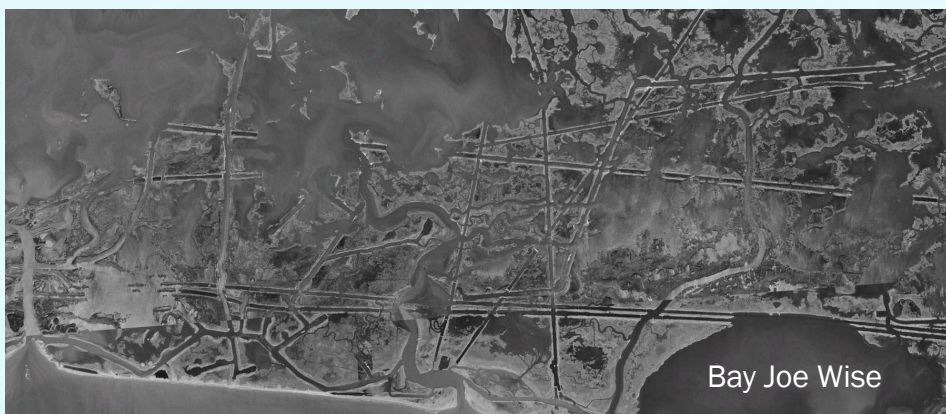
Worsening the destructive force of saltwater intrusion, crisscrossing canals have been sliced through coastal wetlands to reduce transportation time and cost for the extraction industry and maritime commerce. If the bayous were boulevards for saltwater intrusion, these canals are the interstates for the same purpose. After being dug, the canals continuously widen and erode the adjacent wetlands.

Although companies are required by law to restore the canals they dredge “as near as practicable to their original condition,” companies and the state have largely ignored this provision.

The oil and gas industry have



Photo: Alex Kolker



1998: Canals behind Pelican Island

Source: Google Earth



2015: Canals behind Pelican Island

Source: Google Earth

contributed to the present situation in another way. Below the surface, over 50,000 wells drilled since 1920 have created empty spaces in between soil grains that lead to the collapse of the grains that results in an accelerated subsidence rate.

The annual 17 million barrels of oil

and 105 million cubic feet of gas extracted from the Parish leaves empty spaces for gravity to fill.⁵ While it is difficult to estimate exactly what amount of land loss is due to the oil and gas industry, “the Interior Department has placed the industry’s liability as low as 15 percent and as high as 59 percent.”⁷

⁷ Rich, 2014


SEA LEVEL RISE

The national and state support for river navigation, the extraction economy, and levee protection for vulnerable economic assets along the river have all contributed to the unique environmental challenges in Plaquemines Parish. But Plaquemines also faces what the rest of the coastal world faces: rising seas.

CPRA predicts that in 50 years, sea level rise, not including subsidence, in the gulf will be between 1.4 and 2.7 feet. Recent reports estimate that over the next 100 years, the rise could be as high as 6 feet.

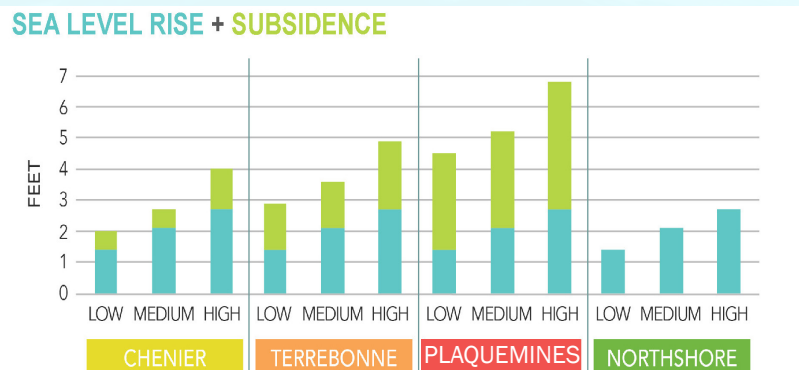
If current conditions do not change, and nothing is done to replenish wetlands, much of the remaining wetlands in the Parish will subside or be eroded into the gulf in the next half century, leaving populations displaced or more vulnerable to flooding and storms. The CPRA map of land loss 50 years from now, shown below, depicts the Parish as thin peninsulas of land, acting as artificial walls for the Mississippi River, surrounded on all sides by water higher than the land within the levees: dry canyons extending into the Gulf.

EXPECTED SEA LEVEL RISE OVER 50 YEARS

 SEA LEVEL RISE	LOW	1.41'
	MEDIUM	2.07'
	HIGH	2.72'

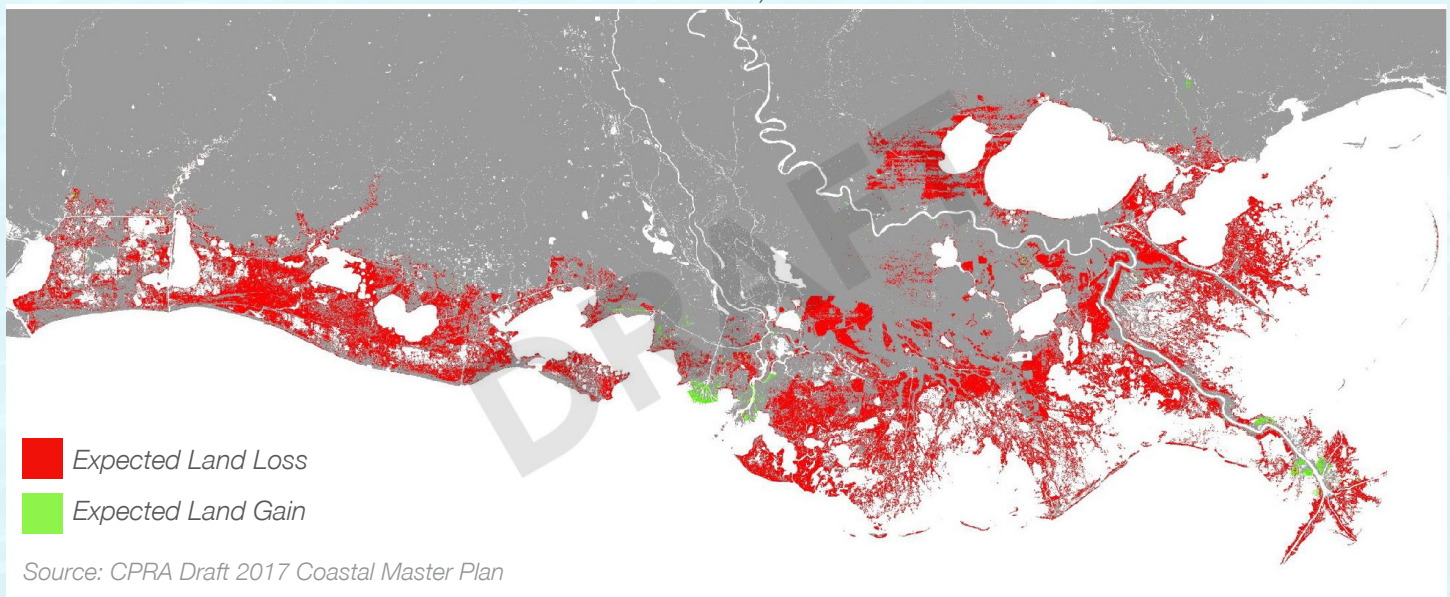
Sea Level is expected to rise between 1.41' and 2.72' by 2067
Source: CPRA Draft 2017 Coastal Master Plan

RELATIVE SEA LEVEL RISE OVER 50 YEARS



Relative Sea Level Rise is Sea Level Rise + Subsidence
Source: CPRA Draft 2017 Coastal Master Plan

PREDICTED LAND CHANGE: FUTURE WITHOUT ACTION 50 Years from Now, Medium Sea Level Rise Scenario



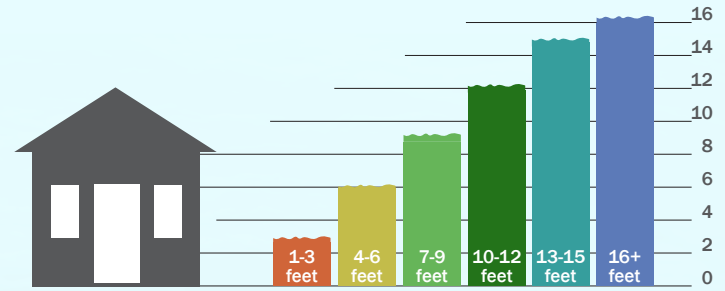
25 & 50 YEAR OUTLOOK

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Agency is currently updating the 2017 Coastal Master Plan with revised land loss projections across the coast. CPRA leaders have shared some of this data through PowerPoint presentations in 2016. While still in a draft format, the content in these presentations represent the most up to date data and information available. This data will form the basis of the Coastal Master Plan until it is revised again in 2022.

One of the major takeaways from the updated data, is that the 2012 projected “Worst Case Scenarios” for future land loss and sea level rise are much closer to the 2017 “Best Case Scenarios.” The “Worst Case Scenario” represents a future without action while the “Best Case Scenarios” are a future with action. The maps to the right depict these scenarios of increasing flood risk over the next 50 years.

The different colors correspond to flood depths during a “100-year flood” - or a flood that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. This kind of flooding event has just over a 1 in 4 chance of occurring during the course of a 30-year mortgage.

The changes in these maps over time take into account sea level rise, subsidence, and increasing storm intensity. Much of the Parish is currently at risk of between 7 and 12 feet of flood depths during a 100-year storm. 50 years from now, much of the Parish can expect over 16 feet during such an event.⁸



FLOOD RISK

Source: CPRA CIMS viewer, 2012 projections, Future Flood Risk, Less Optimistic, Without Plan: <http://cims.coastal.louisiana.gov/floodrisk/>

PRESENT FLOOD DEPTHS (100-YEAR FLOOD)

YEAR 25 FLOOD DEPTHS (100-YEAR FLOOD)

YEAR 50 FLOOD DEPTHS (100-YEAR FLOOD)

⁸ CPRA CIMS viewer, 2012 projections, Future Flood Risk, Less Optimistic, Without Plan: <http://cims.coastal.louisiana.gov/floodrisk/>

FLOOD INSURANCE

The 100-year flood is a metric that affects all homeowners. FEMA bases national flood insurance rates on the elevation difference between a home's first floor and the flood elevation of a 100-year flood - they call it the Base Flood Elevation (BFE).

The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and a following adjustment to it in 2014 set in motion a gradual increase in flood insurance rates in flood zones. Rates will rise until they hit their "actuarial rates" - rates that reflect the risk and value of future loss. In other words, what residents pay on a monthly basis will be statistically equal to the cost of rebuilding after anticipated floods.

For most residents, whose homes aren't elevated above BFE, these flood insurance rates will be unaffordable.

To help address this issue, CPRA

Estimated flood insurance premiums

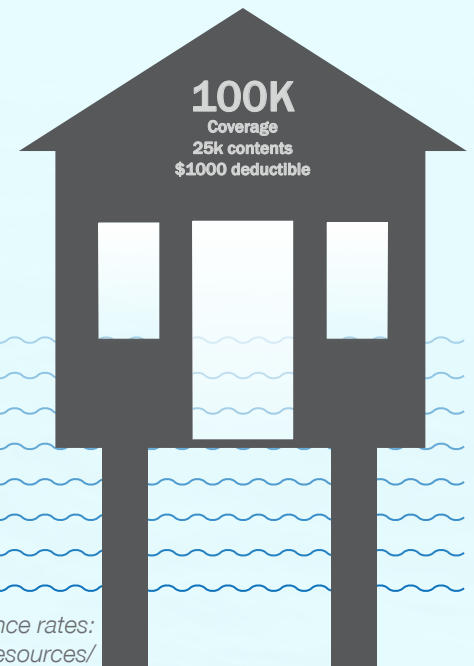
Example home with \$100K coverage, VE Zone

100 - year flood depth above or below first floor	Monthly Flood Insurance Premium
+3 ft	\$480
+2 ft	\$369
+1 ft	\$279
0 ft	\$209
-1 ft	\$159
-2 ft	\$103
-3 ft	\$80
-4 ft	\$69

As the water level increases in relation to the first floor, so does flood insurance premiums.

Rates based on FEMA sample flood insurance rates:

Source: <http://www.ncafp.com/resources/>

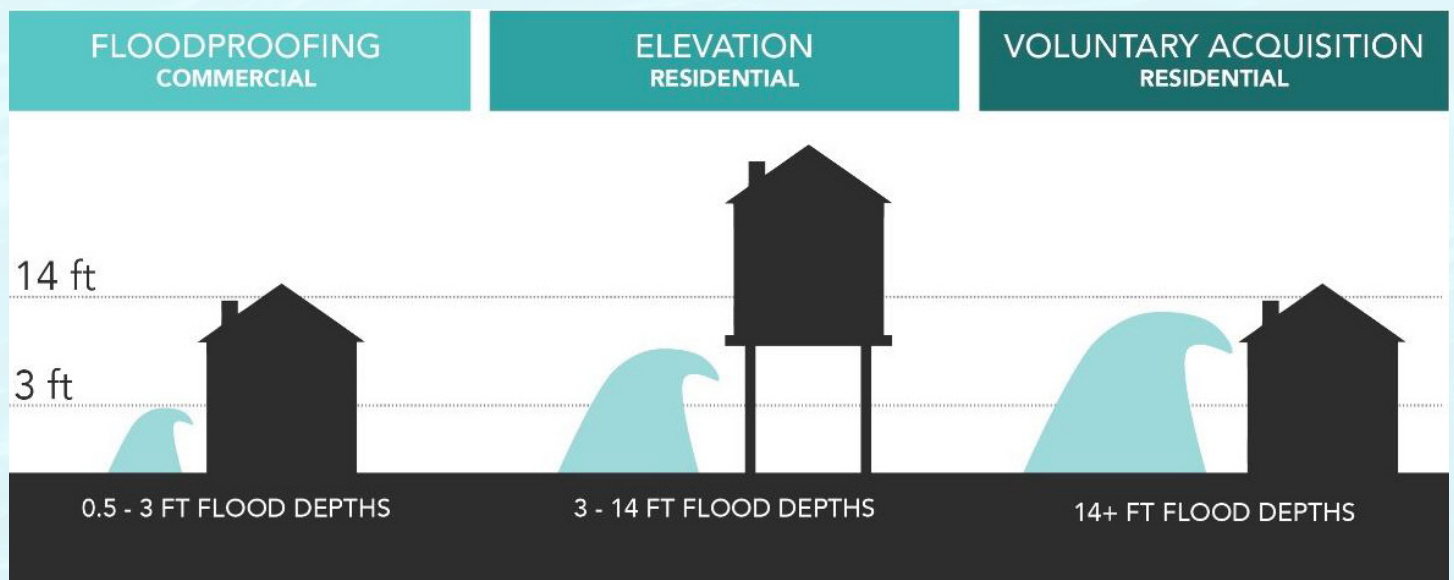


is creating the category of "non-structural" projects to help communities who won't be effectively protected by structural and restoration projects. So far, these projects include grants to parishes to oversee projects that will flood proof, elevate, or voluntarily acquire homes at risk.

Based on the 50-year outlook, CPRA is proposing that homes and businesses with under 3 feet of expected flooding

be given grants to help floodproof. For homes on land that will be flooded with between 3 feet and 14 feet of water during a 100-year flood, the government will provide grants to elevate those homes above flood levels. For homes on land that could be flooded by more than 14 feet of water, residents could sell their property to the government and move to higher ground - a voluntary acquisition.

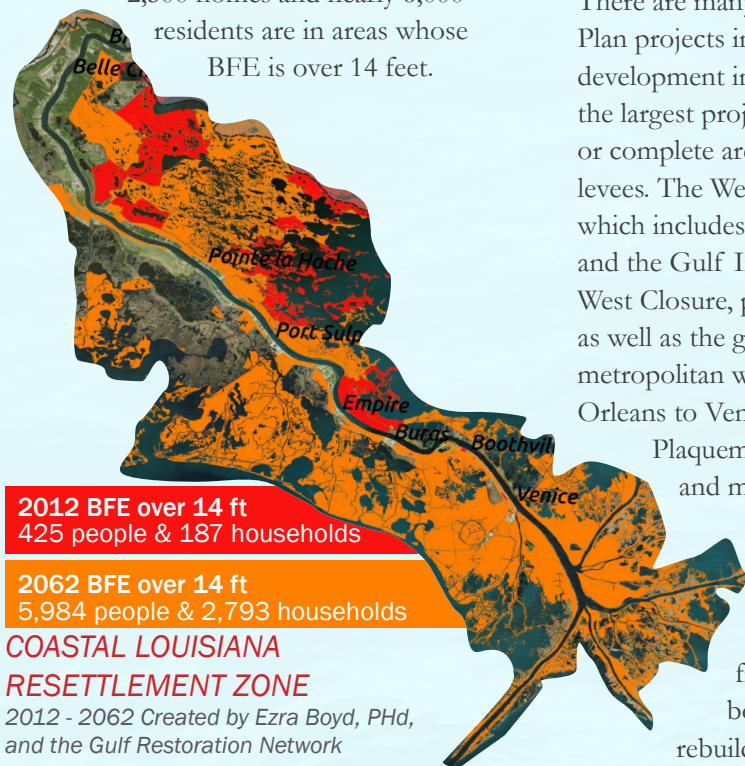
CPRA NONSTRUCTURAL PROJECT TYPES AND FLOOD DEPTHS



Source: CPRA 2017 draft powerpoint

Based on CPRA's current proposal to acquire homes that are too at risk to elevate, Ezra Boyd, PHd, DisasterMap.net, and Gulf Restoration Network have created a map showing the implied "resettlement zones." Much of Plaquemines Parish is in it. By 2062, over

2,500 homes and nearly 6,000 residents are in areas whose BFE is over 14 feet.



As the newest piece of the Coastal Master Plan, Plaquemines residents and other Louisiana communities may have an opportunity to affect the development and expansion of "non-structural" projects to include projects beyond just building protection, elevation, or acquisition. This is a potential opening for CPRA to study and ultimately buy into the recommendations made by Plaquemines residents during this planning process. In addition to CPRA's nonstructural program confined to floodproofing, elevations and voluntary acquisitions, this engagement and planning process encourages the design of holistic mitigation and adaptation strategies that incorporate other social, cultural, economic and community needs. This

resilience framework is designed to consider the long term sustainability and opportunities of Louisiana communities.

STRUCTURAL & RESTORATION PROJECTS

There are many other CPRA Master Plan projects in different stages of development in the Parish. Among the largest projects under construction or complete are new or improved levees. The West Bank Levee system, which includes 90 miles of levees and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West Closure, protects Belle Chasse as well as the greater New Orleans metropolitan west bank. The New Orleans to Venice Levee protects the Plaquemines Parish west bank and much of the east bank from Gulf floodwaters.

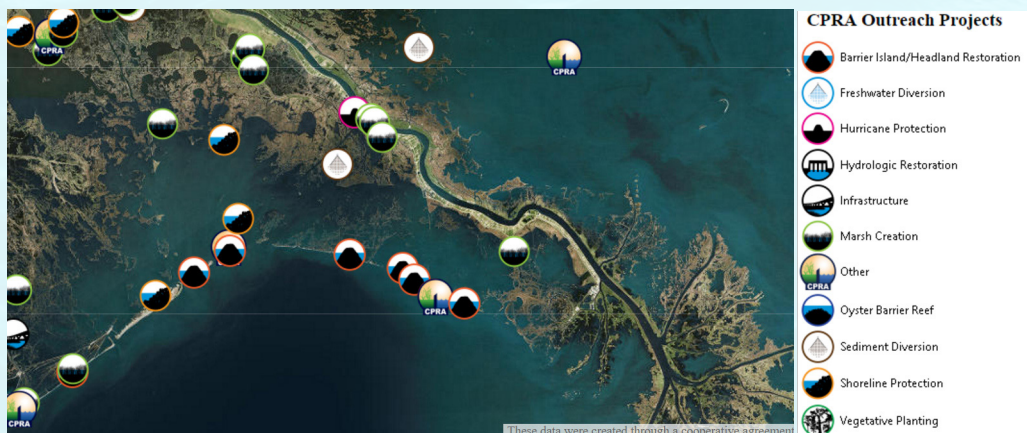
Other projects include dredging sediment from ponds or the bottom of the river to rebuild land, and piping sediment to create barrier islands. These projects often have a relatively small, targeted objectives and require expensive machinery and high fuel costs.

The largest restoration projects in the Parish, in terms of land benefited, are sediment diversions. These diversions will reintroduce river water and sediment into the wetlands on the east and west bank. After bypassing populated areas, a controlled flow of water and sediment will slowly reshape the wetlands.

In Plaquemines, four diversion projects were proposed. Partly due to an increased level of projected sea level rise, only the two upriver diversions are moving forward: the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion and the Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion. These diversions are controversial in the Parish, particularly among fishermen and oystermen, because they will alter the salinity in water bodies and could negatively impact their businesses or push them further south.

Even with these diversions, expected flood risk and land loss will continue to increase due to subsidence and sea level rise, particularly in the southern half of the Parish.

CPRA CIMS map of Master Plan Projects



SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The situation in Plaquemines Parish is a human-caused environmental and socio-economic emergency, but with this set of challenges comes tremendous opportunity. Land across Louisiana has been sacrificed in exchange for generations of prosperous trade and energy consumption, but it is the generations within the Parish at this critical moment in time that has the chance to plan how future generations might be able to live differently. This engagement and planning process provides space for residents across the parish to become familiar with the current conditions: how the state got here, the government bodies working in the space and how they can take action, the future needs and opportunities. Residents and communities can collaborate through this process to design innovative options for the parish – imagining and outlining how local businesses can affect coastal change and restoration, how elevated buildings on parish land with low subsidence can include public spaces for everyday life, how the parish can continue to prosper by increasing economic and industrial activity that connects to the residents and neighborhoods.

While it may be easy to focus on the land loss crisis at hand and the challenges faced across Louisiana, this process asks residents to think towards a brighter future and to plan for adaptation in resilient coastal communities.

The question becomes how does the

Parish move forward? How can all residents and communities contribute to the design of a long term solution? How can this process support the residents and workers in the Parish who maintain the core of US trade, energy, and seafood to create a future that is sustainable, equitable, and prosperous? Where can challenges of changing salinities and increasing open water provide opportunities in places that have not seen them and how can this inclusive process address the questions of those resident needs?

While the magnitude of the challenge is great and the consequences are challenging, there is the potential for innovative and adaptive solutions. Because Plaquemines Parish is one of the first to combat sea level rise, and due to its critical importance to the region and nation, this parish has an opportunity to capture attention and resources to demonstrate how a community and culture can adapt to a new community model that lives with water.

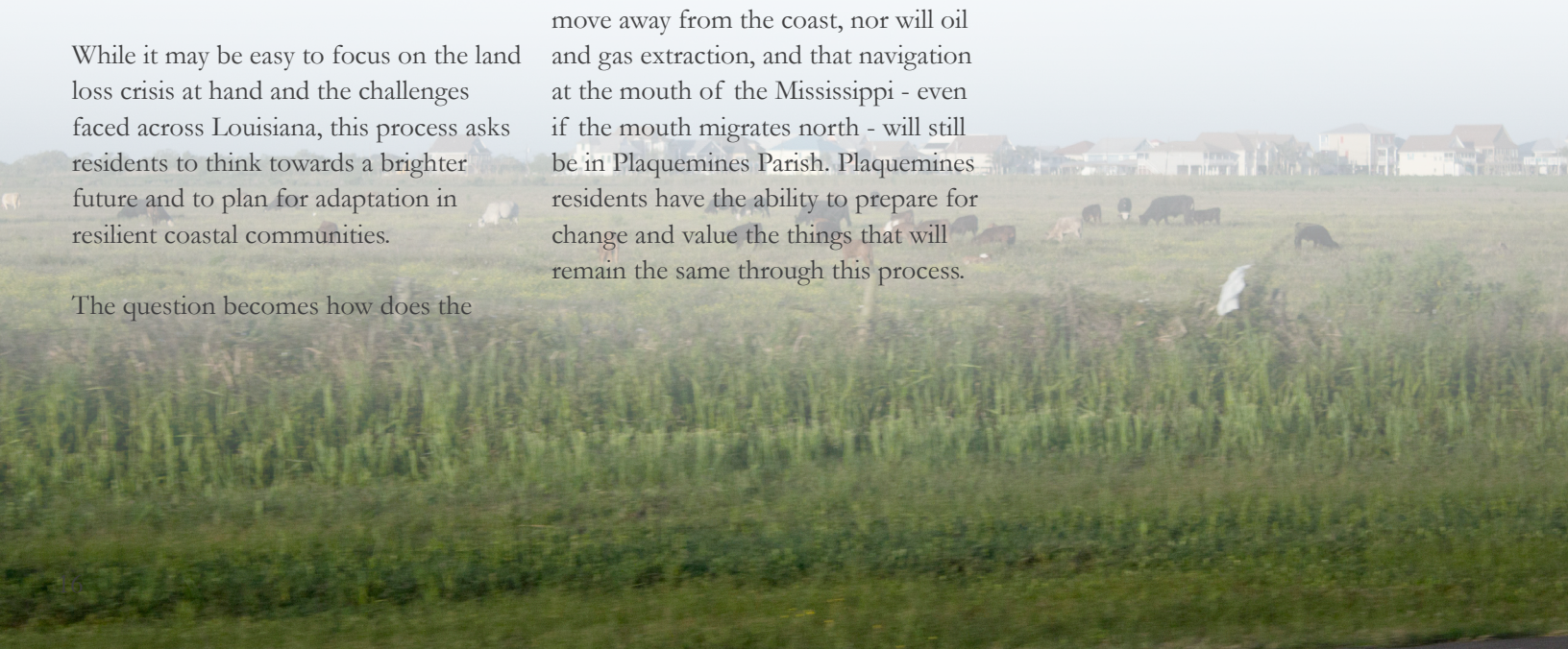
Plaquemines residents love their way of life, the seafood economy is not going to move away from the coast, nor will oil and gas extraction, and that navigation at the mouth of the Mississippi - even if the mouth migrates north - will still be in Plaquemines Parish. Plaquemines residents have the ability to prepare for change and value the things that will remain the same through this process.

PLAQUEMINES AS A MODEL

The approach to this plan is to create a structure through which residents and stakeholders in the Parish can collaborate to problem-solve for themselves after a century of skewed problem-solving by outside powers.

Plaquemines residents will reexamine their relationship with water, and plan for ways to adapt in place or strategically resettle. They will plan for multiple generations, considering the short-term, mid-term, and long-term context and desired actions. Residents will examine protection and adaptation measures, from barrier islands to elevated homes and stormwater management inside levees, as an all-inclusive system.

Self-governing Resilience Planning in Plaquemines Parish can serve as a prototype for other communities around the country and the world. The next century may include the highest rates of human resettlement ever seen on Earth. How communities choose to deal with rising seas, stronger storms, and more frequent flooding will determine whether those communities find ways to stick together or separate.



CO-DESIGN PROCESS

Crowd Co-Design is a new term for an old practice that has been lost: direct local democracy. As authority over the river and coast have become increasingly centralized, the power of local community has weakened.

While the coming coastal challenges are shared around the world, in all cases the impacts will be local and unique. The best approaches and solutions for each community will vary. The complex problems now faced by Plaquemines Parish residents provides an opportunity to use the collaborative genius of democracy - to crowdsource planning for a shared future. The solutions each community comes up with will reflect their unique social, cultural, economic, physical, educational, and organizational makeup. The resulting plans and strategies will be more informed, more creative, and more locally appropriate than any centralized planning rubric.

Further, the recommendations made in an equitable, open, self-governing process are fundamentally more politically practical than top-down proposals that residents are not involved in creating, that all too often include essential flaws that any citizen in the parish could easily have identified and fixed.

For all of these reasons, it has been the continuous goal of the team organizing this process to put the power in the hands of the Plaquemines Parish community.

PHASE 1 OVERVIEW

This Plaquemines Resiliency Planning Process began with Foundation for Louisiana and Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition. Foundation for Louisiana wrote a grant proposal to the Rockefeller Foundation to begin work on an engagement and planning process for coastal residents to plan for the unique land loss challenges they face.

Foundation for Louisiana assembled the “Support Team” and brought in Concordia LLC. to be the engagement project manager. The Support Team provides a cast of Louisiana all-stars – outreach and communications teams within regional coastal coalitions, previous participants in more traditional planning efforts, leaders in racial equity and climate change adaptation. Since February 2016, Foundation for Louisiana, Restore, and Concordia have worked closely as part of the Support Team to design, coordinate, and facilitate two community meetings in Plaquemines Parish, called “Core Committee” meetings. The Core Committee is comprised of local leaders ranging from school board members to engaged fishermen, faith-based leaders and homeowner associations to the neighbor whose voice is recognized because they always stay informed. The Support Team and Core Committee worked to lay the foundation for a strong self-governing planning process. Unlike other plans and community meetings, designed exclusively by outside consultants, residents played a vital part in shaping the principles, goals, topics, activities, and logistics of the engagement process recommended in this Plan.

SUPPORT TEAM

The Support Team is comprised of members of several organizations that work around coastal and social issues. The makeup of the team includes experts in engagement, environmental studies, coastal planning, sociology, justice, outreach and more. Many members have experience working on environmental and social issues in Plaquemines and surrounding Parishes.

The Support Team met on a biweekly basis from February through July. At the meetings, team members worked together to plan and organize two Core Committee meetings and recruit Core Committee members. Between Core Committee Meetings, the team reviewed meeting results and worked to identify and communicate relevant information that the Core Committee said they would find useful.

Going forward, the Support Team will continue to do just what its name suggests: support the process by providing unbiased information, facilitating meetings, and coordinating the logistics of a Parish-wide planning process.



RESTORE
THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA



**Gulf Coast Center
for Law & Policy**
southern perspective,
national impact, global influence



Above: Support Team member organizations
Below: Support Team meeting



CORE COMMITTEE

The two Core Committee Meetings were central to the pre-planning process. The Support Team recruited Core Committee members from all areas and communities in the Parish to participate. The Core Committee meetings were held at the Belle Chasse Auditorium on May 3rd and June 7th, 2016.

At these meetings, the Core Committee defined Principles of Engagement, shared their insight and concerns about the challenges to expect, identified needed information, gave input on meeting goals and logistics, and provided feedback on communication strategies and informational presentations.

Both meetings were documented, and the full summaries are in the appendix. The feedback and outcomes from the Core Committee Meetings are shown throughout this planning document.

After the work done at the Core Committee meetings, the Core Committee participants will help to mobilize their communities to participate in a multi-meeting process by which a Plaquemines Parish Resilience Plan will evolve.

aware change clear coastal community
culture decisions different diversions economic
engagement everyone funding future general
getting ideas impacts included inclusive info
information interests land life live local master matter
meetings needs oil parish participation
people plan political process respect
responses results security sites speak state talking think together truth
voice

Word cloud of resident feedback at first Core Committee Meeting





PLAN PRINCIPLES, GOALS, & STRATEGIES

Throughout Phase 1, the Support Team and Core Committee co-developed planning principles, goals and strategies to carry out the planning process.

This section shows the principles of engagement, planning goals, the engagement timeline, logistical recommendations, and communication and outreach strategies.

The key goals and desired outcomes of this project are:

To understand the needs and desire of the people who will be impacted by land loss, flood risk, and the projects designed to mitigate them.

To engage residents with relevant information so that communities may plan for future generations considering how they want to adapt and respond to the increasing threats of flooding in their community.

To work with the community to arrive at clear action steps and recommendations for public, private, and philanthropic sources of implementation support.

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The 8 Principles of Engagement are the basis for dependable and self-governing planning in the Parish. Upholding these principles throughout all of the work during the planning process will help to ensure success.

Based on national examples, these principles were tailored for Plaquemines Parish by the Support Team and Core Committee. All actions throughout the process will uphold these principles.

*"If we stay close to the principles,
that will determine success."*

*-Core Committee Member
at Meeting 1*

Work Together Toward Our Common Good

**Consider our shared future
and work together to agree
and compromise around
common goals.**

Respect All Voices

**Listen to all voices and
points of view with respect.**

Be Inclusive

**Make process accessible
for all and strive for diversity
at the table. Use multiple
avenues of communication
to encourage continued
participation outside of
meetings.**

Build Relationships & Trust

**Build teamwork and
understanding through the
process, actively listen to
what others have to say, and
communicate with honesty
and respect.**

Organize from the Bottom Up

**Build the process with
people from all walks of life
and ensure all impacted
communities are part of the
process. Reach out to people
at home, school, and in the
community to participate.**

Transparency

**Share all relevant information
openly, and honestly early in
the process so all voices can
shape decisions.**

Pursue Action

**Create a direct link between
planning outcomes and
implementation through
all avenues of power,
including Parish and State
governments.**

Clear Communication

**Establish clear lines of
communications for the
process and present all
relevant information
accessibly. Be clear about
the urgency of action while
giving realistic hope for what
we can achieve.**

PLANNING GOALS

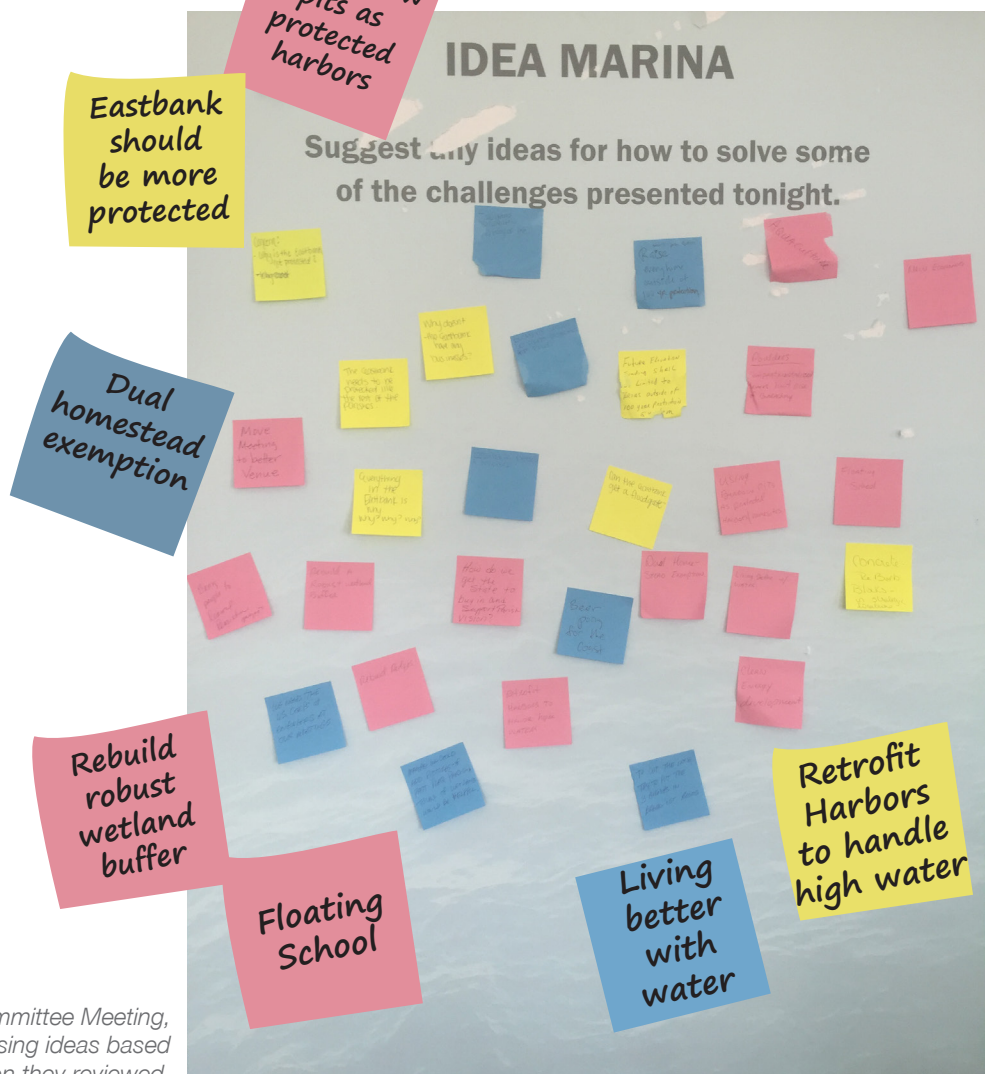
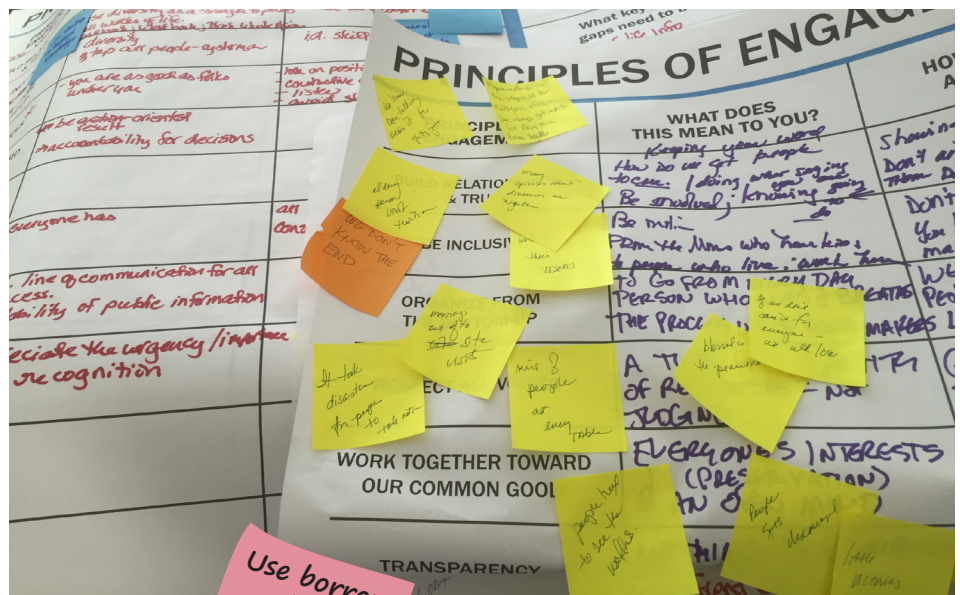
SHARE KNOWLEDGE

Underpinning several of the Principles of Engagement (Transparency, Clear Communication, Pursue Action) is needed for thorough information sharing. Many of the challenges facing Plaquemines Parish are unique and complex; there may be different degrees of understanding or misunderstanding about coastal land loss and possible solutions. Residents and the Support Team will pool information through the lens of multiple lines of defense and holistic adaptation.

For this reason, one of the primary roles of the Support Team is to gather, create, and simplify relevant information from Parish residents, as well as other reliable sources to arrive at informed conclusions and solutions. Plaquemines residents will continuously provide the Support Team with on-the-ground information, problems, and potential solutions. Likewise, the Support Team will reshare this and other relevant information back to everyone involved.

Traditional planning in the Parish has hindered residents by consolidating power at high levels, which has led to low participation and community input. Ideas created by folks nearest to the problems could be less expensive and have higher rates of success.

After sharing all relevant knowledge of current and future conditions, residents will craft planning recommendations. The Support Team and Parish residents will continuously keep a 2-way channel of communication open.



At the second Core Committee Meeting, residents began proposing ideas based on the information they reviewed.

PROMOTE EQUITY

Equitable and inclusive practices will guide outreach, meeting logistics, and accommodations for participants. Venues for meetings that make residents feel most comfortable, transportation for those who do not have access to it, food and childcare needs will all be considered and provided. Literacy rates, native languages and varied education levels will all be planned for to promote ease of access and participation. Tied closely to two of the Principles of Engagement - Respect All Voices and Be Inclusive - creating equity in this process will require persistent work.

There are different dividing lines in the Parish that trace inequalities of risk, income, and opportunity: west bank vs east bank; inside the levees vs outside the levees; suburban vs rural.

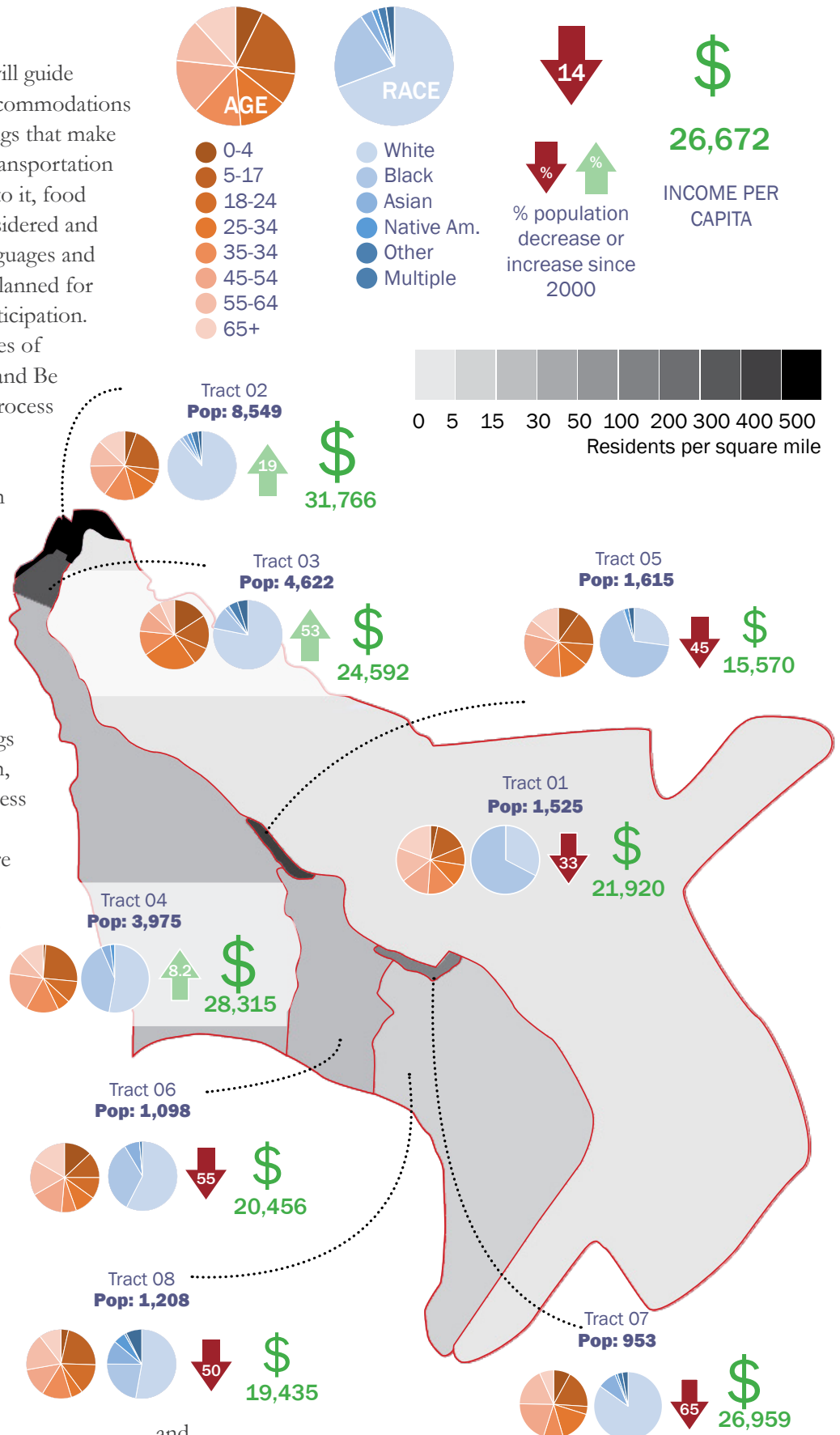
The logistics of the process are designed to make sure that meetings are held in all corners of the Parish, so residents have equal ease of access to the meetings, and so that the voices of sidelined communities are not drowned out by those with concentrated power. Racial, ethnic, and language barriers must be overcome so that everyone feels welcome and that the full diversity of the Parish is represented in the plan.

To promote ease of access

PLAQUEMINES PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS

Density, Age, Race, & Income. Parish totals and by Census Tracts

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010-14, 5-year estimate



and

THINK HOLISTICALLY

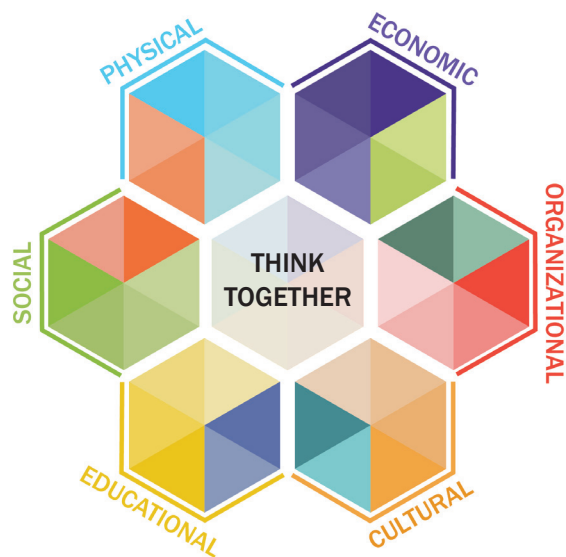
This engagement process will challenge residents to think about resilience in an inclusive manner. On the physical level alone, this means considering natural protections, built protection, home elevating, and evacuation routes as components of a unified system rather than individual solutions. This consideration also requires insurability and economic opportunity, workforce needs and access to resources to be included. The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation calls this the Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy.

Beyond physical defenses both natural and manmade, residents will consider and plan for resilience in the full spectrum of community life, including economic, cultural, social, educational, and organizational systems that operate together.

What do rising seas mean for how people live? What does it mean for the culture of the Parish? For education? For social services and access to grocery stores, banks, and hospitals? How should new homes be built to adapt to higher risk and rates? How can the Plaquemines community continue to enjoy a high quality of life? What

will it be to live in Plaquemines in 2067? How will fishermen and industry continue to thrive?

Residents will answer these questions over the course of many conversations, proposals, combined ideas, and value prioritization. The end result will be priorities built around the full spectrum of community life.



NEXUS FRAMEWORK

Concordia's approach to engagement, planning, & design



Elevated together: Plaquemines Parish Faculty Housing project in 2012. Source: FEMA.gov

Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy for Coastal Restoration



Credit: Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana modified from Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation's Multiple Line of Defenses

PLAN FOR ACTION

Action Steps

Always be mindful that the goal of this process is not just a plan - it is the implemented action that the plan recommends. During the planning process it is important to pursue buy-in and support from Parish residents, Parish and State decision makers, and possible funding sources.

To that end, the planning process must prioritize action steps that can be employed or funded by government or philanthropic organizations. Magnitudes of cost and anticipated benefit should be identified and considered.

Participation is Key

The success of this plan will be in direct proportion to how many residents from all walks of life participate. The strength and genius of democracy springs from the power of many points of view coming together to build compromise around common goals. The participants in this process will need to be its strongest political advocates. The more people actively involved, the more power the process and plan will have. Politicians and philanthropists look towards popular will for guidance.

The more robust the participation of the community is in the planning process, the more the community will support implementation. Developing community support and maximizing participation is the key to a successful planning process and momentum behind implementation.

For all of these reasons, the process must be accessible, equitable, clearly



Precedent: The Unified New Orleans Plan succeeded where previous planning efforts failed. It maximized community input and buy-in, which led to widespread support and implementation with the force of law.

communicated, and self-governing as possible. Multiple lines of outreach must be pursued.

propose ways that their organizations can support community planning and implementation goals.

Forging Relationships

To fulfill the community's goal of pursuing action, the Support Team should communicate with all relevant public, private, and non-profit entities that are involved in planning and restoration efforts, including CPRA, the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation, Plaquemines Parish Council and Planning Department and the Office of Community Development-Disaster Recovery Unit.

By developing relationships with public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic entities during the engagement process, the Support Team and residents of the Parish can increase awareness about the process, and attract support from these groups.

As the process unfolds, different groups with different capacities can help address opportunities and

Enacting the Plan

Once the plan is created and endorsed by Plaquemines residents, it will be sent to the Plaquemines Parish Council to be given the force of law and incorporated into future Master Plans. Building political support behind the plan will involve education and advocacy work.

The urgency of action can't be overstated. Time is against us. Swift implementation should be pursued once the plan is created and approved, though that will require action from multiple agencies and participation at many levels. Through a communications campaign, public outreach, and networking with funders and Parish representatives, the project team should work aggressively to turn the plan into action.

Timeline & Logistics

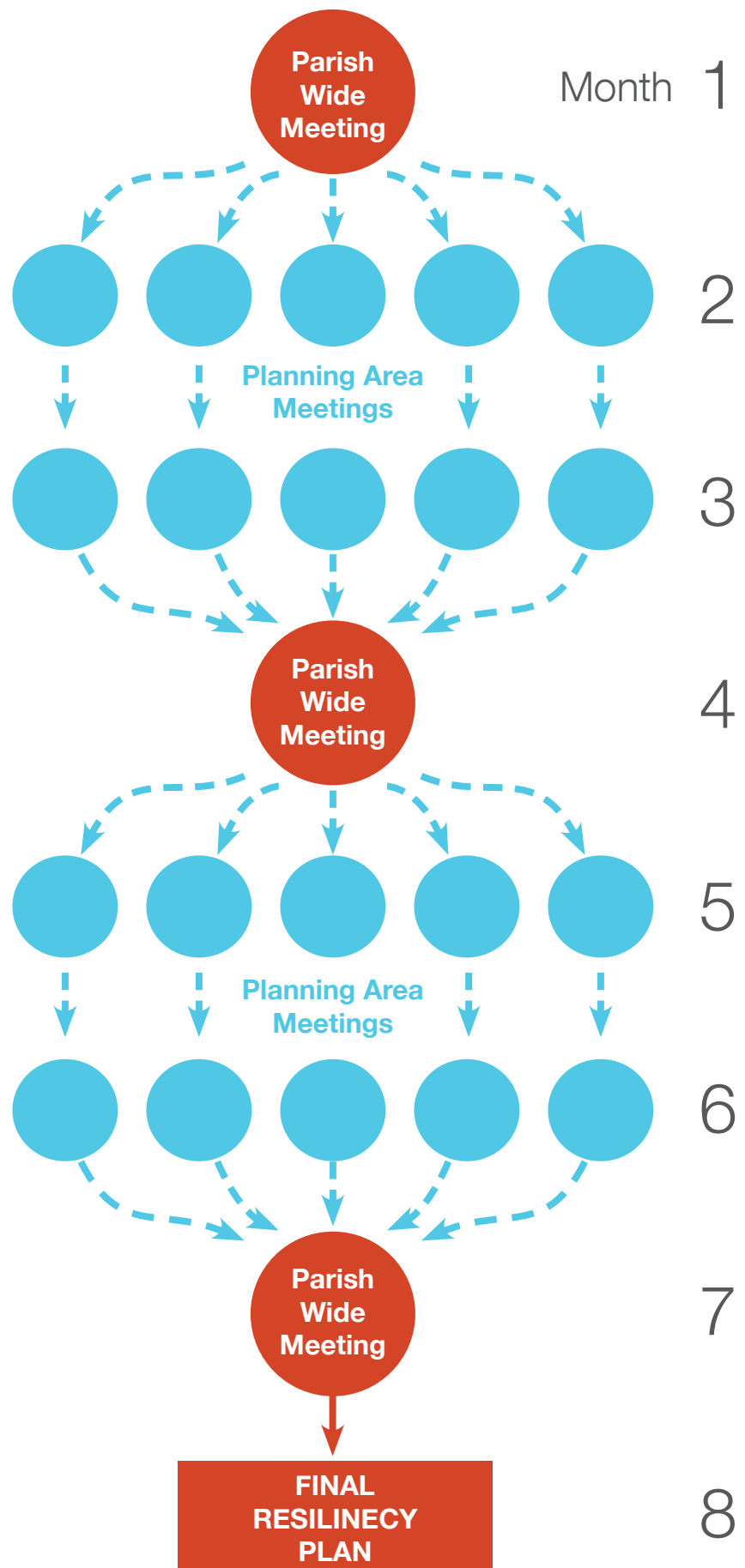
ITERATION

The only way for a planning process to build momentum, trust, and a finalized plan with continual community input and support is to build each meeting on the results of the previous work done. Along with continuous social media participation, Plaquemines residents will work together through an iterative process to arrive at a finalized plan for the Parish.

PARISH & PLANNING AREA MEETINGS

The planning process will move from the Parish level to sub-parish “Planning Areas” and back. As seen within this document, resilience planning processes in Plaquemines will include a multi-month meeting timeline. These meetings include large, Parish-wide meetings at critical points throughout that timeline where important information will be communicated simply and residents from across the Parish will have the opportunity to work together to solve local issues. The first, middle, and final meeting will be a Parish-wide meeting where all Parish residents and stakeholders can come together to address Parish-wide issues and make overarching priorities. Between those Parish-wide meetings, four rounds of Community Meetings will take place at 5 locations around the Parish, so residents of each can focus on assets and important needs more locally. The Community planning meetings provide space for residents to access information and propose solutions at smaller venues where they feel most comfortable. I.e. if a resident in Buras would like to attend a meeting at the YMCA just up the road one evening, that works. However, if that same resident chooses to cross the river and attend a meeting at their church with a different self-identifying network, that also works and is their decision. No jurisdictions or geographic allocations will determine where the resident should attend a meeting. At each Community Meeting happening at the same time, same day, at a different place, the same information will be presented and discussions facilitated – likely sometimes with similar outcomes and other times where those outcomes diverge.

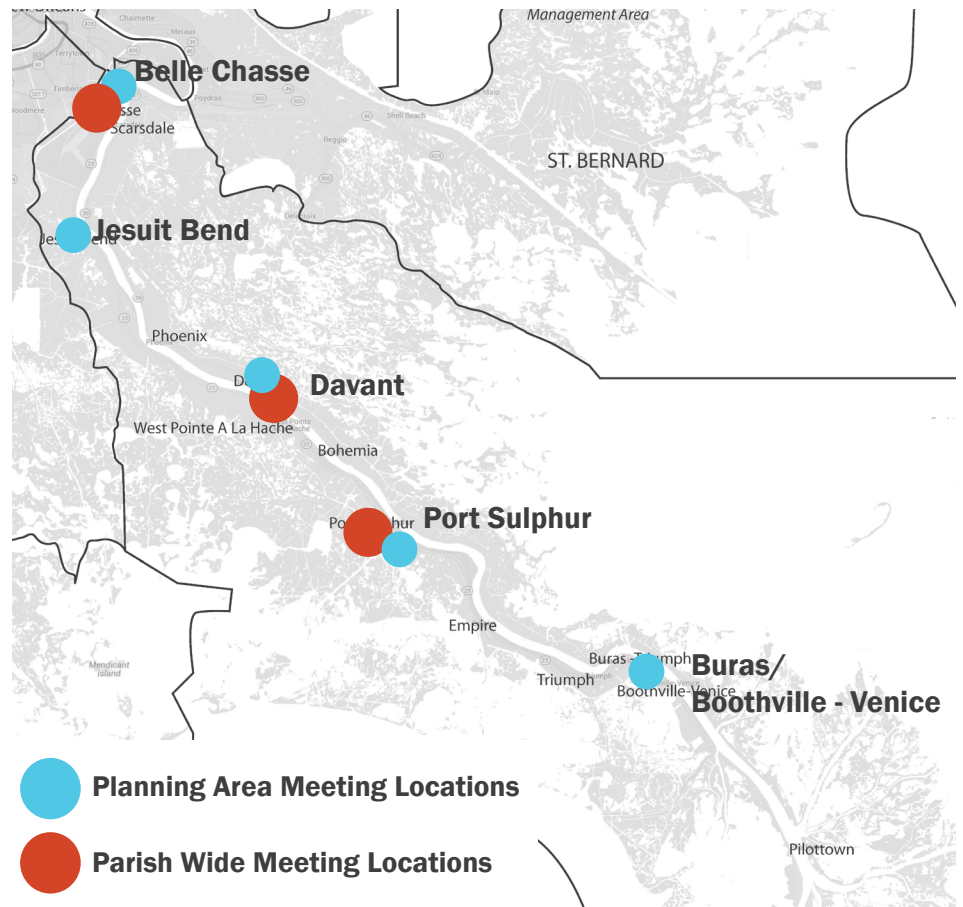
For equality of access to the Parish-wide meetings, the three meetings will rotate between three accessible locations in the Parish: Belle Chasse, Davant, and Port Sulphur.



MEETING GOALS

The Support Team and Core Committee identified broad goals to be accomplished at each meeting. This timeline will need to remain flexible. As one Core Committee member wrote, “you have to expect the unexpected.”

The timeline below shows how the meeting focus should progress from one to the next, with the final goal of arriving at a Parish-wide plan. With that said, the following page shows a draft meeting schedule with more detailed discussion topics and goals. These are organized by information to be shared with the community and information to be gathered from the community.



GOALS	Month 1 Parish Wide Meeting	Month 2 Planning Areas Meeting	Month 3 Planning Areas Meeting	Month 4 Parish Wide Meeting	Month 5 Planning Areas Meeting	Month 6 Planning Areas Meeting	Month 7 Parish Wide Meeting
REVIEW HISTORIC CHANGES, CURRENT SITUATION	○						
REVIEW 25 + 50 YEAR COASTAL CHANGE OUTLOOK	○	○					
EDUCATION ON MITIGATION TIMELINE + PLANS UNDERWAY	○	○					
IDENTIFY PARISH + COMMUNITY NEEDS	○	○					
PRIORITIZE COMMUNITY NEEDS		○	○				
ADDRESS OPPORTUNITIES			○	○			
ESTABLISH PARISH WIDE PRIORITIES				○			
CREATE MITIGATION + ADAPTATION STRATEGIES				○	○		
PROPOSE POLICY CHANGES				○	○	○	
REVIEW + CONFIRM RESILIENCE PLAN COMPONENTS						○	○

Detailed Timeline	Information to be shared	Information to be gathered
1 Parish Wide Meeting	Coastal 101: How land developed. How levee construction, maritime commerce, oil & gas canals, subsidence work together to erode multiple lines of defenses. High level socioeconomic effects and risks. Current strategies for the future.	Planning timeline & community strategy for policy & projects (Cone of Uncertainty, see appendix B). Community concerns & reflection on implications of land loss & increased risk. Community approach to analyzing risk, value, and opportunities for restoration/development.
2 Planning Area Meeting	Sea level rise/subsidence, wetlands as first line of defense, levees, elevation, & nonstructural projects. Flood maps, insurance implications, other expected impacts. High-level plans, processes, and projects in place to address restore & protect.	What are the lines of defense present in communities across parish? How are they changing? What coastal change impacts are felt so far. How are they responding? What are the economic and social effects of those changes? What approaches are working, are popular?
3 Planning Area Meeting	Existing projects & policy to address coastal changes. Community & industry impacts of those projects. Scenarios for flood insurance rate trajectories. Examine existing flood mitigation resources and how to access those.	What needs do communities have in relation to changing environmental, economic, and social systems? What kind of support do you need? What opportunities would be relevant to your community?
4 Parish Wide Meeting	Share smaller meetings results for whole parish. Examine existing flood mitigation resources and how to access those. Discuss potential new recommendations from residents. Ecological scenarios influencing fishery productivity and other environmentally based economic activities.	Synthesize & prioritize Planning Area needs & opportunities. Develop ideas in term of whole Parish. What resources and/or support are needed most? Develop policy changes and prioritized projects, including nonstructural support.
5 Planning Area Meeting	Parish wide proposals suggested. Connections to original proposals from smaller, local meetings. Connections between proposals at local meetings, parish scale, adjacent parishes, planned projects, & MLOD framework.	What details are missing for local scale, what larger changes to systems [ie. Policy, support, regional connections] need to be established to make that happen?
6 Planning Area Meeting	Larger systems in place, where are other parishes/parts of the region taking steps? Project & policy precedents around world. Small scale intervention ideas, Plaquemines faculty housing, elevating roads/stormwater mgmt.	What are your ideas for how some of those precedents could be applied here or more broadly? What is the time frame for completion/can we relate back to Cone of uncertainty? Individuals/families/communities? Hone final project & policy imperatives.
7 Parish Wide Meeting	Review all work done, Planning area recommendations. Connect community plan with government agency initiatives. Share methods for next steps to enact plan. Inform about implementation process.	Make final comments. Finalize & approve plan components. Recommend next steps and how the process should move forward. Recommend other methods for enacting plan.

Meeting Roles

SUPPORT TEAM

The Support Team will continue to plan meeting logistics, meeting activities, organize information, and analyze participant feedback.



Support Team member, Richie Blink, facilitating the 1st Core Committee Meeting

CORE COMMITTEE

The Core Committee will participate in the Parish-wide and Planning Area meetings, serving as table hosts or facilitators. Prior to each of the Parish-wide meetings, the Core Committee should convene to share information, and build capacity to support the Parish-wide and Planning Area meetings.

COMMUNITY FELLOWS

Some members of the core Committee and other Parish citizens outside the Core Committee will become Community Fellows. These

Community Fellows will be supported and trained through Foundation for Louisiana's LEAD the Coast program. LEAD the Coast provides a space for interested residents and future leaders to become knowledgeable about the current conditions, future needs and opportunities in order to facilitate parish and state-wide changes in mitigation, adaptation and resilience practices. The LEAD the Coast program will also enable these Parish citizens to communicate the ongoings of the planning process outside the planning meetings. Fellows are community members and local leaders hired to serve as on-the-ground support. Fellows are tasked to assist with outreach and turn out the community to the meetings. This work includes posting flyers, promoting on social media, talking to neighbors, making announcements at other meetings, and generally raising awareness about the process and answering questions. Fellows will also have the option to serve as table hosts

at the meetings.

The role of a Fellow involves more time commitment than that of other Core Committee members, which is why their time spent on outreach efforts will be compensated.

ALL PARISH STAKEHOLDERS

Plaquemines Parish residents and stakeholders are the most important part of this process. While the Support Team, Core Committee, and Fellows will help set up and inform the work, all real decision making and recommendations will come from community members during the engagement process.

Everyone and anyone in the Parish will be welcome to attend these meetings, which will be round-table, hands-on, discussion focused meetings. The Community will create the final result of this process, and therefore all power ultimately resides in their hands.



Core Committee Meeting 2

A Meeting Facilitator is the person tasked with keeping the pace of the meeting, presenting information, introducing other speakers, and acting as a point person at the meetings. Ideally, this person will be a trusted community member, and remain consistent during the process in each Planning Area. Facilitators will be trained on the ground through the Together Initiative. As a resident driven process, a key component is capacity building among local leaders to facilitate the process.

Work at the meetings will be done collaboratively at small table groups. Each table should be “hosted” by someone who has some understanding of the activities and tasks for the night. The host can answer questions about the activity and help facilitate the discussion, but will participate in the activities as an equal - they aren’t in charge of the group. Prior to each meeting, the hosts should be briefed on the work to be done to fully understand the meeting objectives and activities. Fellows are good options for table hosts.



SPECIALTY GROUPS

SPECIALTY GROUPS

Plaquemines has several groups that have a specialized understanding of their needs and possible solutions. During the process there will be room for these groups to craft recommendations together and bring back to the wider community. Some potential Specialty Groups could be organized around fishing, navigation, farming, oil & gas, and others. Different Specialty Groups should be accommodated and combined into the meeting process.

Representatives from Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Office of Community Development-Disaster Recovery Unit, private investors and developers as well as other governmental and non-governmental organizations may be interested in observing or participating in this process. In some cases, it may be helpful for them to present information about what actions their organizations are carrying out that could impact Parish residents.

The roles of these outside organizations should be managed carefully. Residents should be driving this process, and government officials could become a distraction from the meeting work. On the other hand, as a plan built for action, State agencies and project funders will need to see the work being done in order to buy in, and residents will need information that they have to share.

The appropriate role for outside groups, government entities, and politicians may vary from meeting to meeting, but they should never overshadow the community-driven agenda.



PLAQUEMINES PARISH RESILIENCE PLANNING FRAMEWORK 31

Meeting Process

CONSISTENCY

Consistency must be maintained between meetings. Communication, timing, meeting pacing, and quality of activities should carry from start to finish. A regular heartbeat of meetings creates momentum. Without consistency, meeting participation suffer.

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION

In order for this process to succeed, Parish residents must actively participate in the process. Without broad and diverse participation, the process and plan will not achieve the political momentum necessary to enact change.

For that reason, the Support Team is writing an RFP for an outreach and communications consultant. This consultant will manage all avenues for communication in the Parish, including social media, project website, local newspaper articles, ads, flyers, and any other outreach method that will help increase civic participation.

These efforts must be designed to reach local residents in ways that best suit them. This will likely include phone calling, distributing flyers at local grocery stores, marinas, and places of worship as well as articles in local weekly newspapers.

The Communication and Public Relations must be coordinated with all organizing and outreach at the local, regional and national levels.

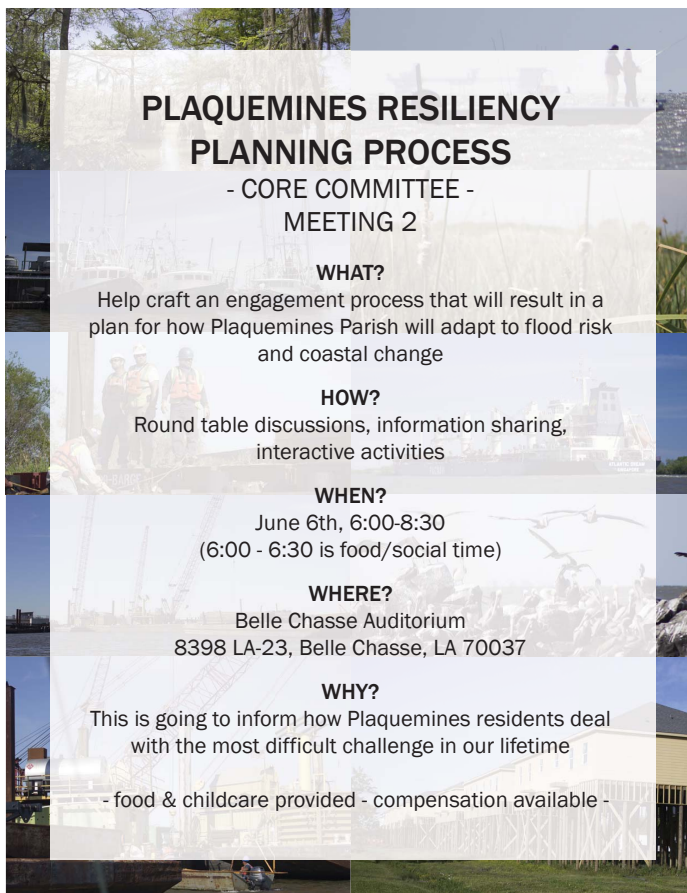
BEFORE EACH MEETING

Gather & Organize Information

- Gather concrete background information and data as a foundation for each meeting.
- Participants should see that the Planning Team has spent time reviewing past plans, previous feedback, and current events that may affect the process.
- Presentation of this information should be kept to a reasonably short period during the meeting.

Determine Accessibility Needs

- **Meeting Venue** - Venue should be easily accessible by transit, centrally located within the Planning Area, and a neutral place where all people feel comfortable. Base the selection on recommendations in Meeting 2. See Appendix.
- **Language Barriers** - There is a significant Vietnamese speaking population who may need translation services. Meeting materials and flyers should be translated. Arrange for a translator at the meetings.
- **Childcare** - Providing childcare will make the meetings more accessible to all and increase attendance.
- **Online Participation** - An online platform for participation should be used to gather other information and connect residents to the process. A project website or social media hub can be the source where residents review past information, meeting results, and participate in questionnaires, polling, and online engagement activities that parallel the meeting



Example flyer used prior to the Core Committee Meeting

CONDUCTING EACH MEETING

process.

Agendas

- Meeting agendas will be simple, straightforward, and provide clear objectives. The agenda should demonstrate how the meeting will produce meaningful results in the context of the larger planning process.
- Share work done at previous meetings, clearly and transparently demonstrate how the previous work set up the work being done today.

Focus

- The focus of the meeting should be on the community work to be accomplished.
- Aim for quality in the work and experience of the participants.
- Remove politics from the process as much as possible. Do not spend valuable time focusing on public officials. Brief introductions are sufficient.
- Speaking and presenting to the larger group will be short, relevant, engaging, and to the point.

Group Work

- Participants must spend most of their time doing meaningful work and/or participating in meaningful conversations with their fellow community members.
- Participants should work in small groups (between 6 to 10 people) so that they can build off of each other's ideas and all have a chance to contribute.

Activities

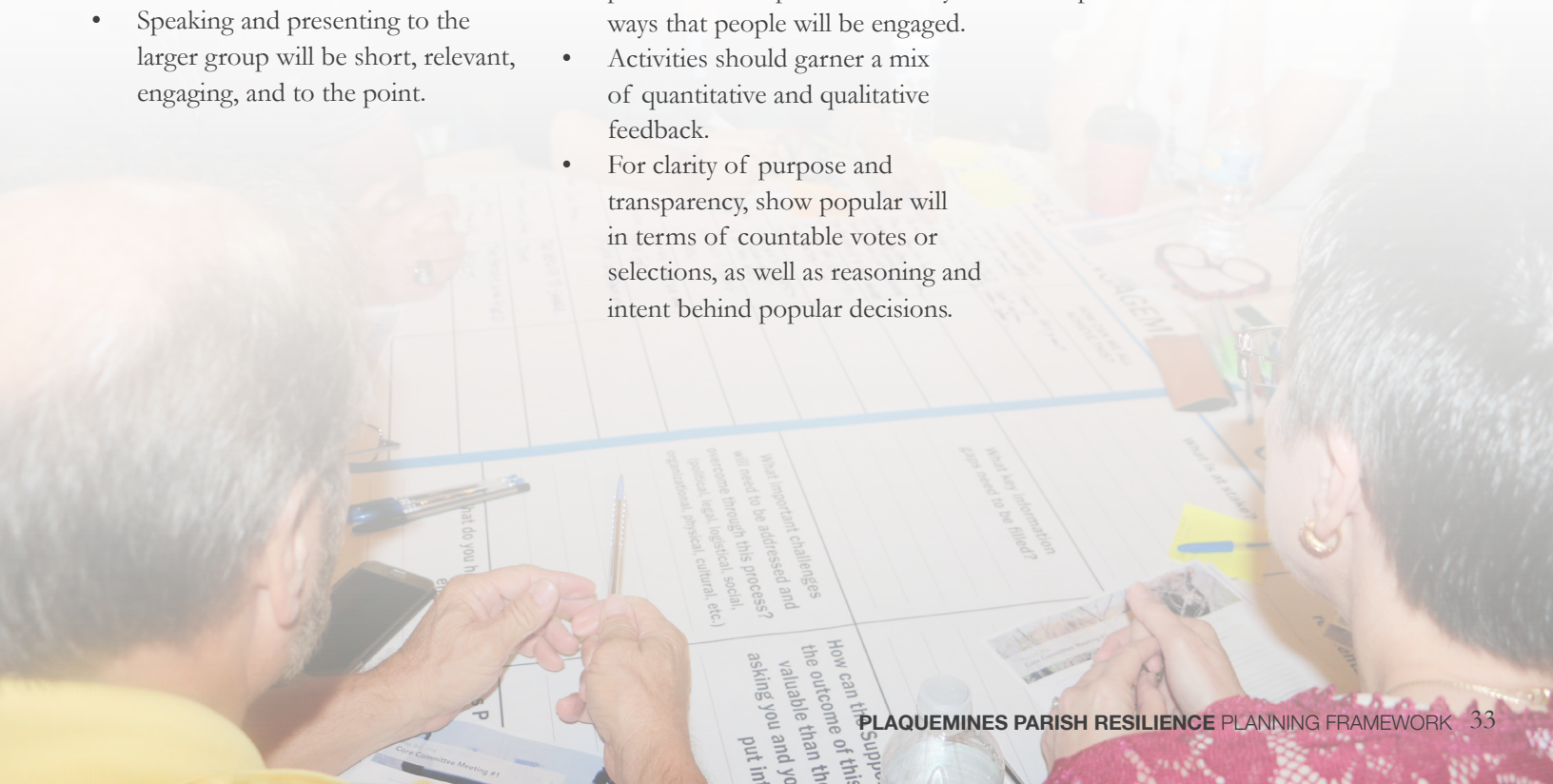
- Prepare one or two activities per meeting.
- Meeting activities will be simple enough for newcomers to quickly comprehend while simultaneously addressing a specific component of the work or project at hand.
- Activities will be hands-on, creative and engaging, promoting discussion and collaboration.
- Avoid the use of similar activities from one meeting to the next. Meetings over the course of a process should provide a variety of ways that people will be engaged.
- Activities should garner a mix of quantitative and qualitative feedback.
- For clarity of purpose and transparency, show popular will in terms of countable votes or selections, as well as reasoning and intent behind popular decisions.

Report-Outs

- After each activity (or at the end of the meeting), the facilitator should invite groups to stand and report out to the larger group what they discussed or accomplished.
- Report-outs should focus on overall ideas of the group's work.
- Report-outs should be kept to 1-2 minutes each. Total reporting time for meetings should be kept to 15 minutes or less.
- At the conclusion of report-outs, acknowledge that all work will be posted online in verbatim and summary form and direct participants where to find more information.

Meeting Evaluation

- At the end of each meeting, participants should answer a short questionnaire about the process and meeting in order to track participant experience, concerns, hopes, and perception of the process.



AFTER EACH MEETING

Openly communicate engagement results from public meetings and online activities in as many ways as possible. Post/distribute engagement results within as short a timeframe as possible following the meeting.

Communication Avenues

Avenues for communicating post-meeting results should include social media, the project website, emails, and hard-copy summaries in selected locations. Posted information should be widely accessible formats.

Reiterate at Next Meeting

At the beginning of the next community meeting, share the results of the previous meeting (and online work, if applicable).

Ensure that participants at subsequent meetings understand that their work has been acknowledged and synthesized. The hallmark of an iterative community meeting process is that participants know how their work informs the progression of the project.

Be Concise

The presentation of results should be short and to the point. Cover overall themes of participant work, and reference to published raw data.

Online community engagement is now part of the norm nationwide, and regularly expected of public engagement processes by young and old participants alike. Websites, blogs, social media and other platforms provide easy and accessible opportunities for communication and process documentation.



CORE COMMITTEE MEETING 1 SUMMARY

What happened at Meeting 1?

The Plaquemines Parish Engagement Planning Process is a community-led effort to plan for the future of Plaquemines Parish. The first Core Committee Meeting was the first major step in this process. At this meeting residents established the core principles and approach to the engagement process.

The first Core Committee Meeting was held on May 3rd, 2016 at the Belle Chasse Auditorium. 27 residents and community members from across the Parish attended the 2 hour meeting, situated around 6 round tables.

During a short presentation, members of the "Support Team" discussed the work done so far in preparing for this meeting and the process as a whole.

Most of the meeting was dedicated to table group activities and individual responses. The following pages document all the feedback garnered at this meeting, which will be reflected in the Planning Framework Document and process going forward.

SO WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

- Authentically planning with the community
- Protection, mitigation, & adaptation to coastal change
- Imagining the long term future of Plaquemines Parish

WHAT IS THE END GOAL?

- A plan created by Plaquemines residents
- Action steps that can be funded or added to the CPRA Master Plan

BIG PICTURE TIMELINE

The diagram shows a sequence of steps: SUPPORT TEAM (green circle) → CORE COMMITTEE (blue circle) → ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT (red circle) → PARISH WIDE COMMUNITY MEETINGS (blue circle) → PEOPLE'S PLAN + ACTION STEPS (red circle). The timeline is divided into PHASE 1 and PHASE 2.

PHASE 1 TIMELINE

The diagram shows a timeline from January 2016 to August 2016. It includes a green circle for SUPPORT TEAM, a blue circle for CORE COMMITTEE, and a red circle for ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT. Arrows indicate the flow of work between these groups over time.

Support Team and Core Committee are developing the framework for engagement.

The result of Phase 1 will be an Engagement Framework Document that outlines the principles, approach, timeline, and strategies to execute the engagement work.

PLAQUEMINES PARISH ENGAGEMENT PLANNING | CORE COMMITTEE MEETING 1 SUMMARY

2

Top: Facilitator communicating agenda at Core Committee Meeting. Bottom: Meeting Summary example sheet.

Documentation & Evaluation

WHY DOCUMENT?

This process is one of the largest non-governmental democratic experiments in the country, and the first to address land loss and heightened risk related to sea level rise. There is great value to other coastal parishes, the rest of the country and global communities facing sea level rise to closely document and evaluate the process in order to learn from its successes and identify where adjustments are needed.

If this process is successful in creating a plan the community is behind, and gains the political and funding traction required to implement it, then this process can be a model for replication across the Gulf Coast and in other coastal communities.

Without careful documentation and evaluation, effective replication will be flawed: mistakes can be repeated and successful strategies may be overlooked or forgotten.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

As this process rolls out, the Support Team and an evaluator will evaluate and monitor process success in several ways. Attendance, enthusiasm, and quantity of feedback are some indicators. Participants will provide process evaluation and feedback through After Action Reports (AAR) at the end of each meeting. AAR feedback will help the project team adjust meeting approach as needed and ensure the Principles of Engagement are being honored.

Additionally, the Support Team engaged researchers at Stanford University's Global Projects Center to identify other evaluation metrics for this co-design process. Joanna Levitt Cea and Jess Rimington are leading the interdisciplinary research initiative, which is shedding light on the imperative to move beyond traditional approaches to stakeholder engagement—and instead apply emergent practices that tap into the power of “crowd wisdom” for superior innovation and results. Their findings are demonstrating how social sector projects can leverage what today's leading for-profit companies recognize as enormously valuable for their projects—the insights and ingenuity of end-users.

Cea & Rimington's research has identified a set of 11 “ingredients” that correlate with successful co-creative, user-driven, crowdsourced processes. These ingredients are drawn from analysis across multiple fields, including: product design; business strategy of new leading technology companies; successful organizing methods of grassroots groups and

social movements; indigenous systems for multigenerational decision-making and planning; and from organizing principles identified in new research in biomimicry. The ingredients reflect a core pattern of components that emerge consistently across these diverse disciplines, in terms of the conditions required for effective co-creation.

In assessing how ingredients correlate with effective co-creation, success/efficacy is defined according to several measurable criteria, including:

The right project: The aim of the project aligns with stakeholders' top needs/priorities

Optimal design: The design employed to achieve this aim is widely assessed as wise

Stakeholder buy-in: There is strong trust, support and shared ownership for the project's success

Cost-savings: Resources are used efficiently without need to fund major “re-do's”

Long-haul sustainability: The project effectively meets the needs of generations far into the future, without short-term design elements that “pass the buck” to future generations

Stanford Researchers, Jess Remington & Joanna Cea, joined members of the Support Team to collaborate on honing these ingredients for the Plaquemines Resilience Planning Process. As currently articulated, these ingredients and evaluation criteria are:

1. Decolonize the Mindset

A mindset that ignores, infantilizes and fears constituents still exists in the social sector. Consciously counteract that way of thinking. This requires a deep curiosity as to what stakeholders can uncover and willingness to challenge assumptions about whose voices (and when, and to what extent, and with what weight) should be a part of the process.

2. Unlearn expert bias

Recognizing preconceived notions of an “expert”, it is critical to challenge how expertise is sourced. Are traditional, long-standing, common, or otherwise “non-expert” forms of evidence being ignored?

3. Source your “why” and test assumptions

Test underlying assumptions of what is needed to achieve a desired outcome.

4. Establish multiple crowds

Creating a diverse crowd (group of stakeholders from all aspects of the problem), decentralizes power, increases the variety of roles within decision making, and keeps more people invested in the process.

5. Establish and maintain a fair deal

Even in the private sector, crowd participation and idea-sharing is often not motivated by money, but rather by a substantiated belief by participants that they will see a tangible benefit from their efforts. Maintaining a fair deal – wherein constituents value the time and insight they put into feedback because they know the outcome will be worthwhile and that the process feels fair – can make or break the success of projects.

6. Seek differentiation

Experts, however they are perceived, aren’t always the best at finding solutions. The more diverse perspectives on a project that exist, the better the outcome.

7. Co-define the problem

Involving all stakeholders, but especially constituents, in defining the problem is a foundational step in ensuring that they feel a collective commitment to the big picture.

8. Establish appropriate decision making

Having created a diverse crowd, create leadership structures among all actors so that complex decisions can be made while maintaining the feeling of a “fair deal.” This also combats the perception that involving constituents more deeply in the process will create delays. This is empirically untrue, and having a set, fair, and periodically reviewed decision-making structure in place is critical to a smooth process.

9. Deconcentrate power

Inclusion of diverse stakeholders results in greater ingenuity and greater resilience of the final product.

10. Prototype early and often

Iterative and rapid feedback will value multiple crowds and keep stakeholders invested. Taking a page from for-profit consumer testing, social impact projects and programs should be strengthened through continuous, structured feedback and improvements.

11. Build your budget to get the idea right

Ensure that budgets are built to actually resource front-end processes to engage diverse actors in the system to “get the idea right”—before money is put into project implementation.

These evaluation metrics will be used by an evaluation consultant to measure success at each step in the process. In this way, the evaluation process is designed to serve as a compass throughout the planning process, highlighting where the process is on track with the collectively-defined aims and where there may be potential risk factors that need to be addressed.

The evaluation framework for this initiative is designed to serve the dual aims of: 1) optimizing the results of this initiative, and 2) supporting future replication and learning from this case.

Communication Strategies

No one method of communication is adequate. Residents get information through many different avenues, and the project team should communicate through all of them to ensure broad participation.

ONLINE COMMUNICATION

Online avenues can provide access to the process for those who cannot make it to community meetings and supplemental information for those who can.

Online engagement is beneficial to residents who can engage at their own time and place. The downside to online engagement is its isolation from community conversation and problem solving. Treat online engagement as supplemental to community meetings; it should not be a replacement for in-person engagement.

Adapt community meeting activities appropriately for online platforms. Not all activities will translate online. Use online platforms between meetings as an outreach tool and information portal. Present synthesized meeting results online and use those results as a basis for online polling, voting, or confirming ideas proposed at meetings. Online work should build on the past work done at meetings, but it shouldn't undermine the progress of the meetings. Presenting meeting work also helps new participants get up to speed on the planning process, attracting more participation at future meetings.

Social Media

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media outlets should be employed to quickly distribute

information to wide audiences. Use these outlets to advertise meeting information, publish links to meeting summaries, and connect residents to other helpful information

Online Polls

Selective online polling is a helpful supplement to meeting activities, because it can capture information from many individuals across the parish. Conducting polling online rather than in meetings frees up valuable meeting time for group work.

Project Website

The Plaquemines Resilience Planning Process should have an engaging website. It should serve as an informational hub with a complete description of the process, including downloadable access to meeting summaries. It should present the relevant information contained in this document in an engaging way, and it should provide links to other relevant information, like FEMA flood maps, CPRA's CIMS portal, and Lake Ponchartrain Basin Foundation's Multiple Lines of Defense information.

VISUAL AIDS

Condensing information into simple graphics, maps, timelines, or videos can greatly improve public understanding. Sharing information this way allows residents to easily share with each other without needing to explain information.

COMMUNICATORS

Person to person communication is the best way to attract people to meetings. Empower the Core Committee and Community Fellows to actively promote the process.

PHONE

Where internet access is limited, the personal touch of a phone call can be an effective way to invite people to community meetings. Communicators, Core Committee members, and the Support Team should consider calling Parish residents to promote the process.

PARTNER WITH GROUPS

Make presentations at existing community group meetings to raise awareness about the process and build partnerships. Existing organizations in the Parish that can take on aspects of the work and help promote the process. For instance the Zion Travellers can be involved in photographing meetings. Keeping the work as local as possible will help to build trust and community enthusiasm for the process.

PRINT MEDIA

Many access information through flyers, bulletins, and direct mail. These printed materials should primarily be employed to invite residents to community meetings.

Engage newspaper readers by printing semi-regular articles about the process or background information that informs the process. Engaging articles should be published a week or two before meetings to promote increased participation. Targeted papers to include the Plaquemines Gazette and Plaquemines Bargains Plus.

RADIO & TV

Book spots on popular local radio stations and TV to talk about the process and promote meetings.





CONCLUSION

Each year that goes by, flood risk increases, insurance rates rise, and Parish land washes away. The Coastal Master Plan has primarily focused on structural projects that will protect the highest value assets, leaving much of Plaquemines Parish without significant protection. Even if more high cost structural projects like levees are improved in the Parish, underlying dynamics of subsidence and wetland loss will continue. Diversions will mitigate some of this loss, but will have small effect on the southern half of the Parish.

Now is the time to think out of the box, to mine the wisdom of the crowd, and to support a new vision for life in the Parish. Residents will face the physical, social, cultural, educational, economic, and organizational consequences of a changing landscape. At this point, all options are on the table. It is our conviction that by providing the information and space for community decision-making, Plaquemines residents will create an action oriented resilience plan to guide future projects and policy in the Parish. Holistic design and adaptation strategies created by residents can determine a future of opportunity and regional resilience.

Plaquemines Parish is well positioned to receive implementation funding for the projects, policies, and strategies that they recommend for adaptation to rising seas. Because Plaquemines is on the front lines, the eyes of the nation will be on them. This is an opportunity for Plaquemines Parish to demonstrate how to address the consequences of land loss and sea level rise in an innovative, resilient, equitable and community-focused way.



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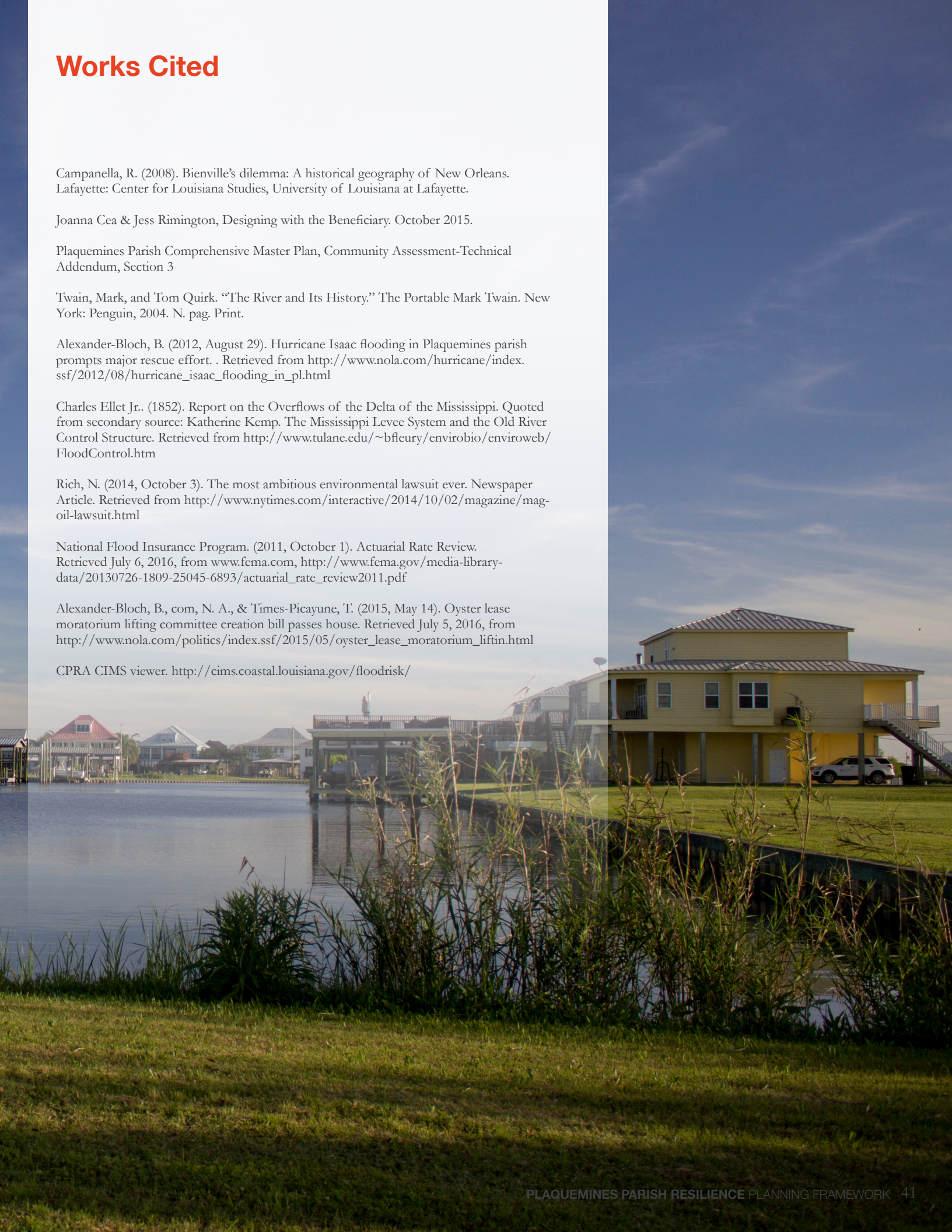
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APPENDIX

A2	A. Core Committee Meeting 1 Summary
A29	B. Core Committee Meeting 2 Summary



APPENDIX A. Core Committee Meeting 1 Summary

PLAQUEMINES PARISH ENGAGEMENT PLANNING



- CORE COMMITTEE - MEETING 1 SUMMARY



What happened at Meeting 1?

The Plaquemines Parish Engagement Planning Process is a community-led effort to plan for the future of Plaquemines Parish. The first Core Committee Meeting was the first major step in this process. At this meeting residents established the core principles and approach to the engagement process.

The first Core Committee Meeting was held on May 3rd, 2016 at the Belle Chasse Auditorium. 27 residents and community members from across the Parish attended the 2 hour meeting, situated around 6 round tables.

During a short presentation, members of the “Support Team” discussed the work done so far in preparing for this meeting and the process as a whole.

Most of the meeting was dedicated to table group activities and individual responses. The following pages document all the feedback garnered at this meeting, which will be reflected in the Planning Framework Document and process going forward.

Slides from the presentation explaining the process.

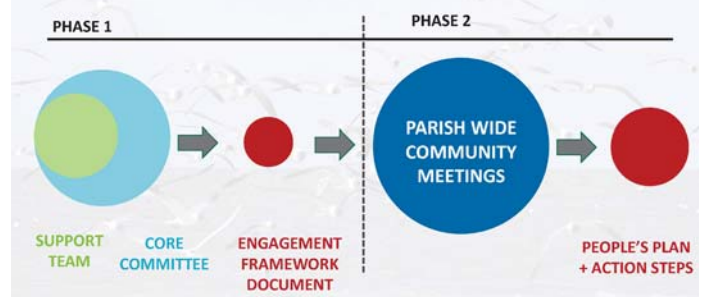
SO WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

- Authentically planning with the community
- Protection, mitigation, & adaptation to coastal change
- Imagining the long term future of Plaquemines Parish

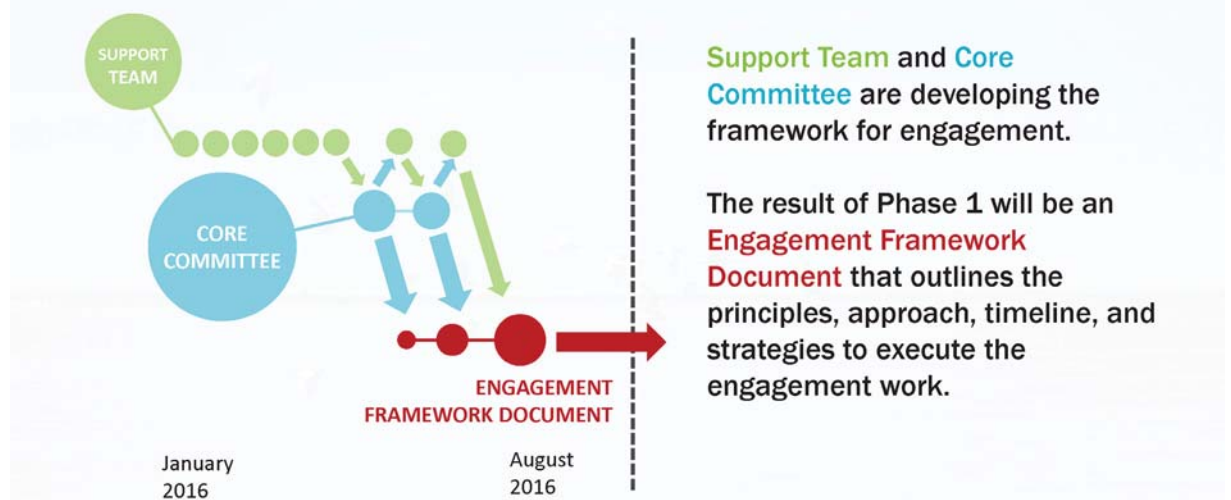
WHAT IS THE END GOAL?

- A plan created by Plaquemines residents
- Action steps that can be funded or added to the CPRA Master Plan

BIG PICTURE TIMELINE



PHASE 1 TIMELINE



10,000 foot view

aware change clear coastal **community**
culture decisions different **diversions** economic
engagement everyone **funding** future general
getting ideas **impacts** included inclusive info
information interests land **life** live local master matter
meetings needs oil parish participation
people plan political **process** respect
responses results security sites speak state talking think together truth
voice

The word cloud above shows the most common words used among all participants on their table sheets and their individual responses.

At the end of the meeting, there was a “Report Out” where individuals from each table spoke about the work their table completed. The general feedback that residents discussed, which is also reflected below and throughout this document, is that the community needs to plan for their future so that beneficial projects in the Parish will be funded and complementary policies will be implemented. The impacts of coastal change are already felt, and if Plaquemines Parish is to have a future, the whole community needs to participate to understand information, identify needs, and grapple with controversial decisions together. Creating a plan with the people’s voice through an inclusive engagement process will result in funding real work to achieve real results.

ACTIVITY 1: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

ACTIVITY 1: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

After a brief introduction, Plaquemines Parish residents worked on a two part activity to frame the approach to a Parish-wide engagement & planning process which will focus on coastal issues and long term sustainability.

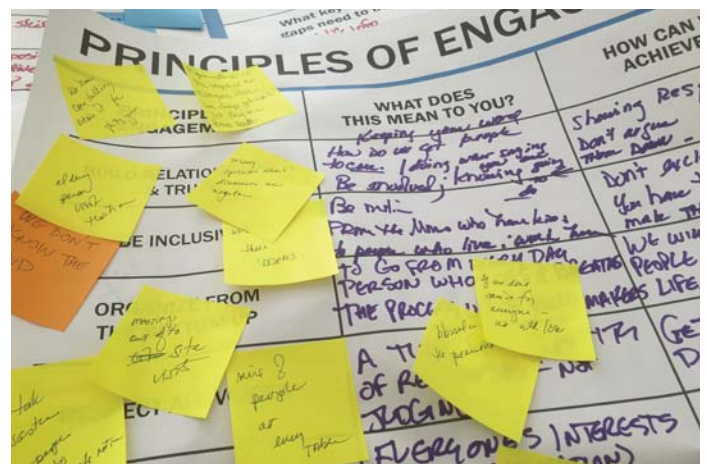
Each table was “hosted” by a member of the Support Team, who was familiar with the activity. These hosts facilitated conversation and made sure that all ideas were captured and documented.

The main group activity consisted of two parts: “Principles of Engagement” and “Core Questions.” For Principles of Engagement, Core Committee participants evaluated, expanded, and elaborated on a list of recommended engagement principles. They defined the meaning of these principles and recommended actions to help achieve them.

The verbatim responses from the Core Committee participants are on the following pages, including additional Principles that residents suggested.

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT			CORE QUESTIONS	
PRINCIPLE OF ENGAGEMENT	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?	HOW CAN WE ALL ACHIEVE THIS?	What is at stake?	What do Plaquemines residents have to gain?
BUILD RELATIONSHIPS & TRUST				
BE INCLUSIVE				
ORGANIZE FROM THE BOTTOM-UP				
RESPECT ALL VOICES			What key information gaps need to be filled?	How should success be defined?
WORK TOGETHER TOWARD OUR COMMON GOOD				
TRANSPARENCY				
INFORMED PARTICIPATION			What important challenges will need to be addressed and overcome through this process? (political, legal, logistical, social, organizational, physical, cultural, etc.)	How can the Support Team ensure the outcome of this effort is more valuable than the time we're asking you and your neighbors to put into it?
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT		
PRINCIPLE OF ENGAGEMENT	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?	HOW CAN WE ALL ACHIEVE THIS?
BUILD RELATIONSHIPS & TRUST		
BE INCLUSIVE		



PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Below are the Principles of Engagement for this process with summarized definitions. These definitions are based on the responses that Core Committee table groups provided at the meeting, documented on the following pages. The Support Team provided the first six principles for the Core Committee to expand and define. The Core Committee also suggested other principles. The Support Team integrated the definitions of these additional principles into the six original ones and added two additional principles for this final list: “Clear Communication” and “Pursue Action.”

Build Relationships & Trust

Build teamwork and understanding through the process, actively listen to what others have to say, and communicate with honesty and respect.

Be Inclusive

Make process accessible for all and strive for diversity at the table. Use multiple avenues of communication to encourage continued participation outside of meetings.

Organize from the Bottom Up

Build the process with people from all walks of life and ensure all impacted communities are part of the process. Reach out to people at home, school, and in the community to participate.

Respect All Voices

Listen to all voices and points of view with respect.

Work Together Toward Our Common Good

Consider our shared future and work together to agree and compromise around common goals.

Transparency

Share all relevant information openly, and honestly early in the process so all voices can shape decisions.

Clear Communication

Establish clear lines of communications for the process and present all relevant information accessibly. Be clear about the urgency of action while giving realistic hope for what we can achieve.

Pursue Action

Create a direct link between planning outcomes and implementation through all avenues of power, including Parish and State governments.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS & TRUST

What Does this mean to you?

Network communication.

Keeping your word. How do we get people to care?
Doing what you are saying you're going to do. Be involved; knowing.

Being direct without being demonized.

Too much "top down" mistrust in the Parish. Campaign finance drives decisions.

Know who you're talking to.

How can we all achieve this?

By advertising - social media, church, newspaper.

Showing respect; don't argue. Calm down - listen. Not yelling and speaking with respect.

Team building exercises, go on a boat together, learn from each other.

Truth serum and polygraphs.

Conversation and actively listening. Recognize and accept we're starting from a place of distrust. Speak from the eye: not for group.

We have been talking about it for twenty years. Plaquemines Parish is the stepchild for everyone else - we always get impacts 1st, being the furthest south. All day person visit. Many opinions about diversions are negative.

Note: the word clouds in this section pull from the responses shown on each page. The choice of size and emphasis was determined subjectively based on the responses on the right.



BE INCLUSIVE

What Does this mean to you?

Interacting with the communities in the Parish.

Be involved - from the many who have kids to people who live alone.

Use untapped knowledge. Go to churches; HOAs; retirees; use diversity as a strength to process. All walks of life. Eastbank/Westbank; black, white, Asian.

Lack of diversity amongst tables.

Not about me, without me. Avoid Jargon.

How can we all achieve this?

Peer engaging attendance.

Have a web-based discussion so comments and ideas can be developed before and in between meetings. Multiple meetings in multiple sites throughout the parish: Belle Chasse/Port Sulphur/Venice/Eastbank - gotta find community centers.

Don't exclude anyone. You have to talk - make them part/want to.

Think inclusively, move out of comfort zone. Team building.

Diversifying the seating arrangement at these meetings. Surveys or other ways to reach out to people who can't come to meetings.

Contacting community leaders. Acknowledge/include who is not here. Acknowledge its hard work getting everyone to the table. Up-front inclusive participation ensures less push back on the back end.



ORGANIZE FROM THE BOTTOM UP

What Does this mean to you?

Brainstorming.

To go from every day person who lives & breathes the process up to policy makers. If we don't save for everyone - we all lose.

Diversity. Tap all people - oystermen.

Opposite of Corps Process.

Are impacted communities included?

How can we all achieve this?

Start with home and school, community.

We will get responses from people from all walks of life.

Identify skill sets. Diversity respect skill sets.

Door to door. Resources at bottom. Directing resources. Don't forget eastbank.

Meeting out of to site visit.



RESPECT ALL VOICES

What Does this mean to you?

Every voice matters no matter the age group.

A time for quantity or responses - not judging.
Blessed is the peacemakers.

You are as good as folks under you.

Need: Respect of political will to do
public bidding.

Everyone is given an opportunity
to speak truth. Even the smallest
ideas will help. All experiences/
educations/ages matter.
Supporting inclusion of all voices.
Avoid being too politically correct.
(speak truth).

How can we all achieve this?

Don't judge a book by its cover.

Get past Parish divisions - unity
Look on positive-side = continuous improvement.
Constructive criticism. Listen. Avoid stereotyping.
We all have value.

Youth/elderly included. Include all literacies.
Incorporate what is said into final work.
Transportation/Childcare/Compensation. More
facilitation. Step up/Step back.



WORK TOGETHER TOWARD OUR COMMON GOOD

What Does this mean to you?

Working to accomplish your goal.

Everyone's interests (preservation) & an open mind. People need to see the wetlands. People get discouraged.

Be result oriented. Accountability for decisions.

Seeing that we're all connected. It's not them, rather WE. Common good is our interconnectedness.

How can we all achieve this?

Agreement, put in time, shareable solution & similarities.

Compromise. If we don't come together it will be gone.

Be aware differing interests have differing "common good." Have a common understanding of "common good." Not profit on someone else's misery. Minimize impacts. Think about future generations. Think about tomorrow.



TRANSPARENCY

What Does this mean to you?

Being opened, clear. Every opinion matters.

Nothing is being hidden. Little victories along the way.

Being direct without demonizing.

Become a buzzword/lip service.

Honesty. Truth. I have a right to know.

How can we all achieve this?

Clear communication. No right or wrong answer.

Everyone should be included in the initial development (not after decisions have been made). Make sure everyone knows when and where meetings are. Put it online - easy, accessible.

Be aware that too much may derail plans.



INFORMED PARTICIPATION

What Does this mean to you?

Presentation Aware.

What kind of sea level, subsidence, erosion are you facing. How do you get people on the same page? Factual. Must be able to substantiate what you're saying. Early participation, early information, and present ALL info. Needs to not feel like information is being "managed". Needs back up, but also information needs to be summarized concisely and graphically.

Knowing what we are here for.

Everyone has.

Science needs to be available to people in clear way. T.E.K. Traditional Ecological Knowledge, connect this to "Learned" Sciences. Combine them.

How can we all achieve this?

Information - Preparation.

Informed participation is not reading material. It needs to be mapping, discussion,. Needs visuals. If you're talking more specifically about someone's backyard, they'll pay more attention. Focus on maps of each planning area. Make it personal.

All input is valuable. Consider all perspectives.

A word cloud of terms related to informed participation. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with some words being larger and more prominent than others. The words include: BACK IT UP, SPECIFICS, NOT READING MATERIAL, SUBSIDENCE, SUMMARIZE, PLANNING, SEA-LEVEL, FOCUS, VISUAL, CONCISE, AWARE, PREPARATION, PERSONALIZE IT, BACKYARD, ALL PERSPECTIVES, ACCESSIBLE INFO, FACTUAL, MAPS, GRAPHICALLY, INFORMATION, EVERYONE, T.E.K., DISCUSSION, PAY ATTENTION, SUBSTANTIATE IT, EARLY INVOLVEMENT, LEARNED SCIENCES, and MAPS.

Summary:

Science and information should be presented in a clear, visually engaging and accessible way that shows impacts on local areas.

WRITE INS

Clear Agenda

What Does this mean to you?

Understanding the concept

How can we all achieve this?

Preparation

Accessibility

What Does this mean to you?

Getting to the meeting

How can we all achieve this?

Transportation

Give Hope

What Does this mean to you?

To give inspiration. We all live around water.

Communication

What Does this mean to you?

The ability to share ideas. Some of the data is skewed.

Action Implementation

What Does this mean to you?

The process will yield results

Good Communication

What Does this mean to you?

Est. line of communication for all to access.
Availability of public information.

Incentive for Engagement

What Does this mean to you?

Appreciate the urgency / importance. Show recognition.

Ultimate buy-in from decision makers to support the plan that is developed

What Does this mean to you?

Need direct link of outputs and inclusion into process.

Access (media)

What Does this mean to you?

Availability of Parish-Council meetings/ decisions/etc.

How can we all achieve this?

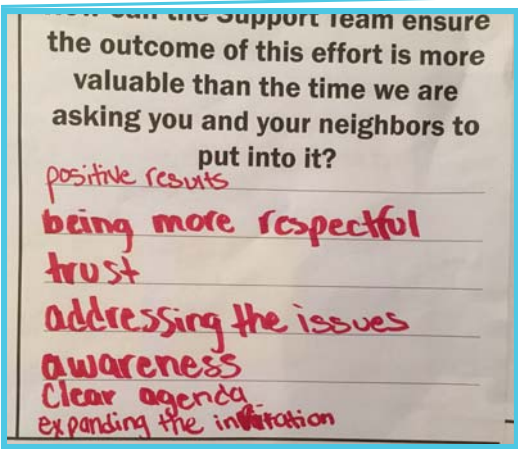
Push for dissemination of info from council + government

ACTIVITY 2: CORE QUESTIONS

During the second part of the Activity, Core Committee participants answered 7 questions to elaborate the meaning, approach, and goals of an engaged planning process.

The responses on the following pages are verbatim from the table sheets. The word clouds show the most commonly used words largest.

CORE QUESTIONS	
What is at stake? _____ _____ _____ _____	What do Plaquemines residents have to gain? _____ _____ _____ _____
What key information gaps need to be filled? _____ _____ _____ _____	How should success be defined? _____ _____ _____ _____
What important challenges will need to be addressed and overcome through this process? (political, legal, logistical, social, organizational, physical, cultural, etc.) _____ _____ _____ _____	How can the Support Team ensure the outcome of this effort is more valuable than the time we are asking you and your neighbors to put into it? _____ _____ _____ _____
What do you hope for Plaquemines Parish as outcomes of an engagement planning process? _____ _____ _____ _____	



This word cloud shows the most common words from all Activity 2 responses. The largest and darkest words are the most common.



WHAT IS AT STAKE?

bright business communities construction
culture economic economies forms
future gas heritage historic history
homes industry investment legacy life livelihood lose
natural nothing oil parish platter property public quality resources safety
seafood security sites small stability stake success survival
sustainability tourism well-being whole

The community is at stake, and our future. Our homes, our future.

Communities, Seafood industry, oil, gas, construction. Historical Sites.

Survival - way of life, cultural history, property

Our future. Our success - tourism; oil industry. Our sustainability. If we do nothing, we lose our Parish.

Future; culture; livelihood; well-being, homes, the whole seafood platter; small business, economic investment. Public Safety; Way of Life/Heritage.

Quality of life, our culture/heritage, historic sites. Communities, natural resources, future economies, economic stability, security: legacy. Life in all forms. A bright future.

WHAT DO PLAQUEMINES PARISH RESIDENTS HAVE TO GAIN?



Community engagement, solutions, awareness.

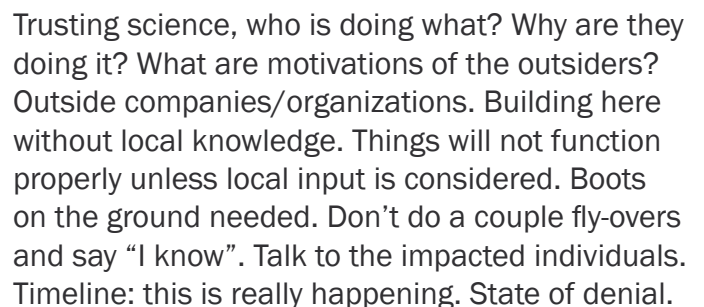
Federal Funding. Additional Projects in State MP.

Security, money to fix the issues. Peace of mind, future generations, speak with one voice - Unity.

Our way of life (like mom + dad). Prosperity of industries and the ability to showcase our business and our people's economic growth. Displaced people. Bring in new people.

Future, culture, livelihood, Security, quality of life, affordable insurance, healthy environment; sustainable ecosystems; productive fisheries.

A louder voice. Power to the people. Self-determination, more control over communities, lifestyles, more power. Consequences to not following wishes of local plan.



HOW SHOULD SUCCESS BE DEFINED?

accountable carry change
communicate
consensus create crime cross determine follow
forward funding held id implement innovative jobs lifestyle live participation
principles people plan power precise quality
results schools section secure stay success table targeted vision ways

Participation, good communication, PLAN!!!

Creates Consensus, Secure Funding, Live up the principles - if we stay close to the principles, that will determine success.

If we move forward and there is a good cross section of the people at the table. Innovative ways to communicate.

Follow through. Consensus. Precise targeted results. ID those who are to carry out + held accountable. Lifestyle change. Low crime; great jobs; quality schools.

Power to implement our vision.

HOW CAN THE SUPPORT TEAM ENSURE THE OUTCOME OF THIS EFFORT IS MORE VALUABLE THAN THE TIME WE ARE ASKING YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS TO PUT INTO IT?

able addressing agenda analysis awareness break celebrate clear
communicate concerned discussions economic
education end enforcement etc expanding fisheries focus going help increase
insurance interests invitation issues keep law matter mechanism monitoring
people pieces plan policing positive process represents
respectful responsibilities results security small subgroups
summary support sure team trust value

Positive results, being more respectful, trust, addressing the issues, awareness, clear agenda, expanding the invitation.

Let them know that their voice will matter.

Value our time and keep this process going. Results. Communication. Make sure the end result represents who and what we are. Celebrate small victories.

Accountability of Support Team. Analysis and summary--> game plan. Responsibilities. Monitoring/policing mechanism.

Increase participation - law enforcement, education. Help to communicate. Break process/discussions into pieces that subgroups are able to focus interests- some people are concerned with fisheries/economic security; some with insurance etc.

WHAT IMPORTANT CHALLENGES WILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED AND OVERCOME THROUGH THIS PROCESS?

agenda around balancing box coastal convincing
decisions different diversions dtr
engagement final fishermen forward
funding gas getting happening hard important
influencing interests land leaders leases legal level listen
local lost maritime needs oil parish
people perspectives plan political power race
regards responsibly restoration rights rise self-interests start
together whole willing

Eastbank/Westbank, Race, DTR.

Fishermen don't like diversions. Fishermen won't like land restoration where they have leases. Ensuring funding hits the ground. It's hard to be inclusive when people from differing financial situations are impacted. Funding for making people whole (lost leases) - need to know the effects of diversions. Oil + gas interests, and maritime + commerce have different perspectives. Maritime doesn't like diversions if it disrupts navigation. Oil: 'Don't close Mardi Gras pass' - oil will be against whatever slows down logistics.

Political - get politicians to listen. Legal - As sea level rise occurs, who owns the land? Money, funding and getting people together look at Parish as a whole and not regional geography! Organizational, physical-geography and getting people to the wetlands. We all live around the water, together we stand and divided we fall.

Get out of BLAME GAME of oil companies. Start real accountability. Go forward responsibly. Government willing to work together. All start local. No personal agenda → good to all.

Balancing competing interests with regards to ecological restoration decisions. Self-interests by decision leaders/ makers influencing bad decisions for coast (harmful permitting; mineral rights, etc.). Getting attendance and convincing people this is important to show up for.

Who has final say so? Engagement is not enough, the people have the power and their ideas shall be included into future coastal plans. People/ engagement set shall not be a box to be checked. We need to know what is happening with other planning efforts: coastal master plan. Our PLAN NEEDS TEETH. Our Plans need to come to fruition. Somehow in the process the Parish's voice needs to be heard.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR PLAQUEMINES PARISH AS OUTCOMES
OF AN ENGAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS?

address attendance belief better **change** coast collecting combined
community consensus different documented dust
empowered ending engaged enrollment fractured **funding**
gathered implemented inclusive information involvement job land loss
management master migration **money** outward parish
participation people **plan** projects protection push
rate reduced restoration save security **skills** stabilizes study successful
voices willingly

Better protection, more money, community involvement.

Aggressively address restoration - more funding. FUNDING. IF we are all in consensus and we have a plan, they will fund it here. If we are fractured and giving push back to plans/funding, they will take the money to another parish.

Results. Documented plan by the people. Funding for projects to save the coast.

New inclusive ideas (from new voices) and participation. More community participation, willingly engaged for change (belief and want for change). A different ending (not another study; plan) collecting dust. Planning skills + change management skills.

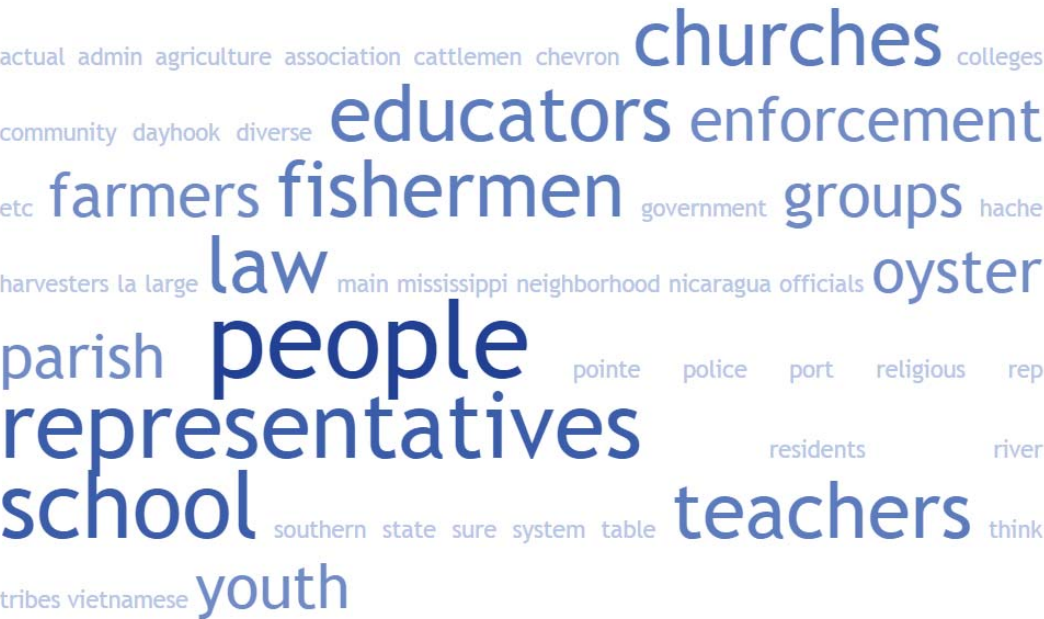
A plan that stabilizes outward migration; job security; successful schools => enrollment attendance. A reduced rate of land loss.

Information gathered shall be implemented/ combined into master plan. Communities empowered.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

Each Core Team Member answered five questions about the process individually on an evaluation form. Their full responses are below, and word-cloud summaries on the right show the most commonly mentioned words by size.

WHAT COMMUNITIES OR GROUPS WERE NOT REPRESENTED IN THE ROOM TODAY?



Oystermen, Vietnamese fishermen.

Those that are not (teachers?) - Asian community - Educators - other than just government officials.

Residents from Pointe a la Hache, Teachers, Police.

Oyster fishermen, educators, law enforcement.

- Navigation - Mississippi River. Main one Not sure???
- Oil Company Representatives, Actual Fishermen.
- Most all were but more people need to get involved!
- Farmers - citrus growers - cattlemen; teachers + educators.
- Agriculture / Farmers.
- School, Law, Churches.
- Law enforcement, school system, neighborhood association representatives.

- Church representatives, school administration, (state rep)
- More people from tribes and Latinos, more people from Nicaragua.
- Churches, schools, colleges, more youths.
- People our age (I think this was from the youth table).
- More people representing diverse groups; not just 1 or 2 but more.
- Seafood industry - oyster harvesters Large Parish Employers ex. Chevron, Dayhook, Etc.
- Southern end of Parish and religious groups Teens, Port Sulphur.

WHAT KNOWLEDGE DO YOU HAVE THAT YOU THINK PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW?



We are facing a real possibility of not being able to live in the lower part of the Parish. Plight of impacted cultures.

What it is truly like to suffer from the storm or economic disasters.

Need everyone to share

Show n tell.

Where this parish is going and not going. (Or “where this parish is going. We not going.”).

I work with grants, especially housing, elevations and we need to make sure all houses are elevated. I lived in both east and west bank, and I worked and went to school in the north. We need to be concerned with all the Parish, not just a small area.

I am knowledgeable about mangrove trees & their ability to help our wetlands.

I live it every day, I see the devastation and destruction. Seeing is believing and talking about what we can do to resolve this problem.

Commercial fishing - 1st hand witness of our eroding coast.

Knowledge of the seafood industry, hands on experience and identity of coastal erosion.

Decisions made elsewhere affect our lives more than they know. We are suffering.

the same vision.

Economical development potential opportunities.

Experience in contract and operations of public work projects. True financial situation of the Parish.

What’s in the bread pudding? It was delicious!

Community connection.

Community connection.

How our lifeways are intimately connected.

Selection of sites/ construction of wetland mitigation.

No.

Minority involvement.

That people need to be more transparent and more aware.

WHAT IS SOMETHING ABOUT PLAQUEMINES PARISH THAT YOU FEEL DECISION MAKERS DON'T UNDERSTAND?

affects
community
connectedness
diversions
future
interest
people
understand
concerns
decision
industry
live
parish
seafood
yard
agendas
appreciation
burden
choose
common
disasters
drawing
ecological
economic
experiences
front
history
holds
important
knowledge
la
large
local
logistics
love
making
networking
preservation
problems
projects
quality
really
river
sometimes
suggested
table
think

How to balance the industrial growth with the residential communities.

The burden it holds for NOLA, state of LA, US.

The impact of natural disasters. If you haven't lived it, there is no way to understand it. There's a lot more to Plaquemines Parish than just Belle Chasse.

Problems in the past w/ unified front between Parish Council & Government.

How diverse we are.

How we feel as a whole community, which makes us united in one goal.

They don't understand the logistics of how long the Parish is, also how river affects the Parish.

I think most have no idea how important we are to the cultural, economic, ecological future of the U.S.

They do not understand what is needed, their interest is only money and self preservation.

The future of our seafood industry that some projects such as large scale diversions will cause.

The affect that some diversions will have on our industries like our seafood and our quality of life in general.

We choose to live here because we love it. Support us, do not hinder us.

Working together for the common good. Personal agendas.

How to communicate with constituents.

That sometimes decision makers are not really making decisions but postponing them.

Our way of life, our connectedness, our networking, our back yard concerns.

Our HISTORY...THE PEOPLE'S VISION.

Appreciation of local knowledge suggested solutions drawing from everyday experiences in our waterways.

The complexity of the competing interests.

Considering those that are likely to impact by an event are less likely to be at the table of discussion.

The lives of people who live here and how it affects them.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADDRESS AT THE NEXT MEETING?



Opportunity for actions.

As Pam (sic: Bobbie) said, a 100 group can do more than experts, I would rather see more “(ground?)” members of the community, not the political officials. They can be intimidating - we already know their thoughts and direction.

Purpose (propose?) from last meeting and commitment to action.

The Mississippi effects on Plaquemines Parish
Showing off the state of the Parish to the people who have not seen it.

No politicians should be involved at the beginning so they can’t push their political agenda.

I.D. key politicians we need to involve at some point.

How to coexist with salt water vs. freshwater pertaining to the seafood industry.

Diversions vs. sediment berms pumped in to build our coast.

Community involvement; state agencies seeing first hand - in person our habitat + our communities in general. They need to see our bays, our canals, our coastal erosion in person.

Coastal Restoration, levees.

Biggert Waters Act + timeline for making decisions on how to survive the coming projects.

Concise summary of tonight’s feedback and appropriate action steps.

Parish Policies an non-bid contracts, legal, consultants, professional services.

How can arts play a role in the engagement process? Culture? Performance art...festivals (seafood, oysters).

Introductions.

Youth involvement.

Make a room for questions from the audience for discussion.

Funding opportunities for suggested projects.

Projects, ex. Diversions, dredging, studies.

Potential funding of Coastal Restoration Projects
Youth involvement.

WHAT ARE YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PROCESS?



Completion w/ consensus on path forward and results.

Just another study and act in futility. No accountability of the process. Conclusions not appropriately directed to those responsible for implementation.

That process will result in actions.

That it or something happens - actions not words.

That it is finished!!!

That it won't come to fruition.

I am excited!

If it moves forward to unite people to help this process work.

Decisions being made by people that do not have a stake in our future.

Being on the same page with local, Federal, and State agencies so that they can understand our way of life and experience our present hardships first hand. And our future as to how their decisions will actually affect us.

Hopefully not a waste of our time.

That the public will not buy in and participate.

Sound.

May need more meetings of the core group - youth want to video blog.

That somewhere somehow the ball will get dropped and the issues will be swept under the rug.

The youths coming out to the meetings.

Will it bear usable fruits.

Community attendance at future meetings.

The project will not get the comments to decision makers.

They maybe issues don't move up the chain.

That some do not get there point across. Also that youth do not get to voice their opinion.

POST MEETING

What is happening now, after Core Committee Meeting 1?

The first Core Committee Meeting forms the basis of the Community Engagement Planning Process. All of the results from this meeting are going to inform the Planning Framework Document which will set the direction for an inclusive engagement process.

The Support Team will review all of these results and meet to discuss what the agenda for the 2nd Core Committee Meeting will be. The second Core Committee Meeting will be held on June 7th and will build on the valuable work done at Meeting 1.

The results from both Core Committee Meetings will be integrated into the Draft Engagement Framework Document. Once a draft is complete, all Core Committee members will have an opportunity to comment on it before it is made public. This Engagement Framework Document will become the guiding framework for the Phase 2 engagement process with the whole community.

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT			CORE QUESTIONS	
PRINCIPLE OF ENGAGEMENT	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?	HOW CAN WE ALL ACHIEVE THIS?	What is at stake?	What do Plaquemines residents have to gain?
BUILD RELATIONSHIPS & TRUST	Network Community as a team interacting with the communities in the parish.	Be advertising Social media, church, newspaper. Be encouraging attendance.	Community as a whole, etc. Our faith.	Community engagement Solidarity Respect
BE INCLUSIVE	Brainstorming	Start with home and school community.	What key information gaps need to be filled? The key information need to be filled in the length of time, teacher plan, and environment. Safe environment.	How should success be defined? participation good communication PLAN!!!
ORGANIZE FROM THE BOTTOM-UP	Every voice matters no matter the age group working to achieve your goal.	Don't judge a book by its cover. Agreement, put in time, forward thinking. Communication.	What important challenges will need to be addressed and overcome through this process? Confidential, legal, logistical, social, organizational, physical, cultural, etc.) Feedback (constructive).	How can the Support Team ensure the outcome of this effort is more valuable than the time we are asking you and your neighbors to put into it? positive results being more respectful brush addressing the issues clear agenda respecting the information
RESPECT ALL VOICES	being opened, clear every opinion matter.	Clear communication no right or wrong answer. information - (transparency)	What do you hope for Plaquemines Parish as outcomes of an engagement planning process?	
WORK TOGETHER TOWARD OUR COMMON GOOD	Clear agenda understanding the concept.	Preparation		
TRANSPARENCY	accessibility getting to the meeting	transportation		
INFORMED PARTICIPATION				
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				



PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT			CORE QUESTIONS	
PRINCIPLE OF ENGAGEMENT	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?	HOW CAN WE ALL ACHIEVE THIS?	What is at stake?	What do Plaquemines residents have to gain?
BUILD RELATIONSHIPS & TRUST				
BE INCLUSIVE				
ORGANIZE FROM THE BOTTOM-UP				
RESPECT ALL VOICES				
WORK TOGETHER TOWARD OUR COMMON GOOD				
TRANSPARENCY				
INFORMED PARTICIPATION				
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				

PLAQUEMINES PARISH RESILIENCY PLANNING



- CORE COMMITTEE - MEETING 2 SUMMARY



WHAT HAPPENED AT MEETING 2?

The Plaquemines Parish Resiliency Planning Process is a community-driven effort to plan for the future of Plaquemines Parish. The second Core Committee Meeting set the course for the widespread planning process to be carried out this fall.

This process has been organized by a group of non-governmental organizations and planning firms. This process is not officially affiliated with any government organization, although we have informed governmental entities about it. The goal of this process is to create a truly democratic resiliency plan that will inform all governmental bodies, philanthropists, planners, and lawmakers, what is the true will and vision of Plaquemines Parish citizens and stakeholders. In the face of increasing flood risk, land loss, and all related environmental and social disruptions, this is an opportunity for Plaquemines Parish to demonstrate to the world how to adapt to sea level rise as a community.

The 2nd Core Committee Meeting was held on Monday, June 3rd at the Belle Chasse Auditorium. Twenty-four residents and community members from across the parish attended the meeting and engaged in seven activities that will inform the planning process. 10 Support Team members facilitated and assisted with the meeting.

This document summarizes resident feedback on these activities, which will directly inform the Planning process going forward. The Support Team will draw from all work done thus far to create an Engagement Planning Framework document. This will serve as the road map for the Planning and Engagement process to come.

*Photos from
Core Committee
Meeting 2*



ACTIVITY 1: INFORMATION STATIONS

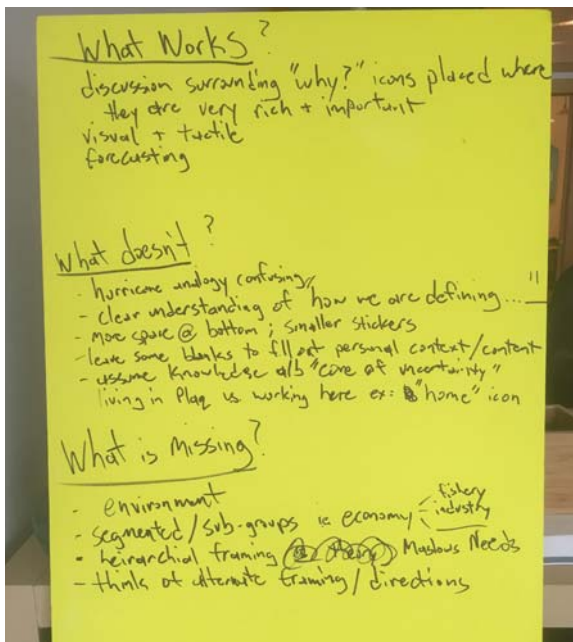
After a brief introduction, Plaquemines Parish residents split into groups that rotated between three information stations for 15 minutes each. The goal for the activity was to get feedback on how information and questions relating to flood risk and resiliency planning are presented to and interpreted by residents. The activities were designed as example activities that can be used in future planning meetings with the whole community. At this meeting the Core Committee participants evaluated the activities and recommended improvements.

Each activity provided a different perspective on how to think about the challenge at hand, and were designed to engage different learning styles. The *Cone of Uncertainty* activity assessed resident desire for planning together and the time frame for which to plan. The *Flood Risk & Insurance* information presented the big picture risk and insurance cost outlook for the next 50 years. The *Photo Boards and Storytelling* was a used to communicate the problem in more concrete imagery and personal experiences.

Cone of Uncertainty

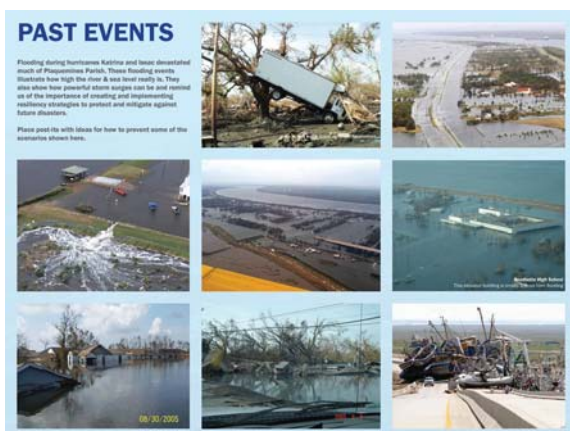


Flood Risk & Insurance information



Feedback from residents on the Cone of Uncertainty activity.

Photos and Storytelling

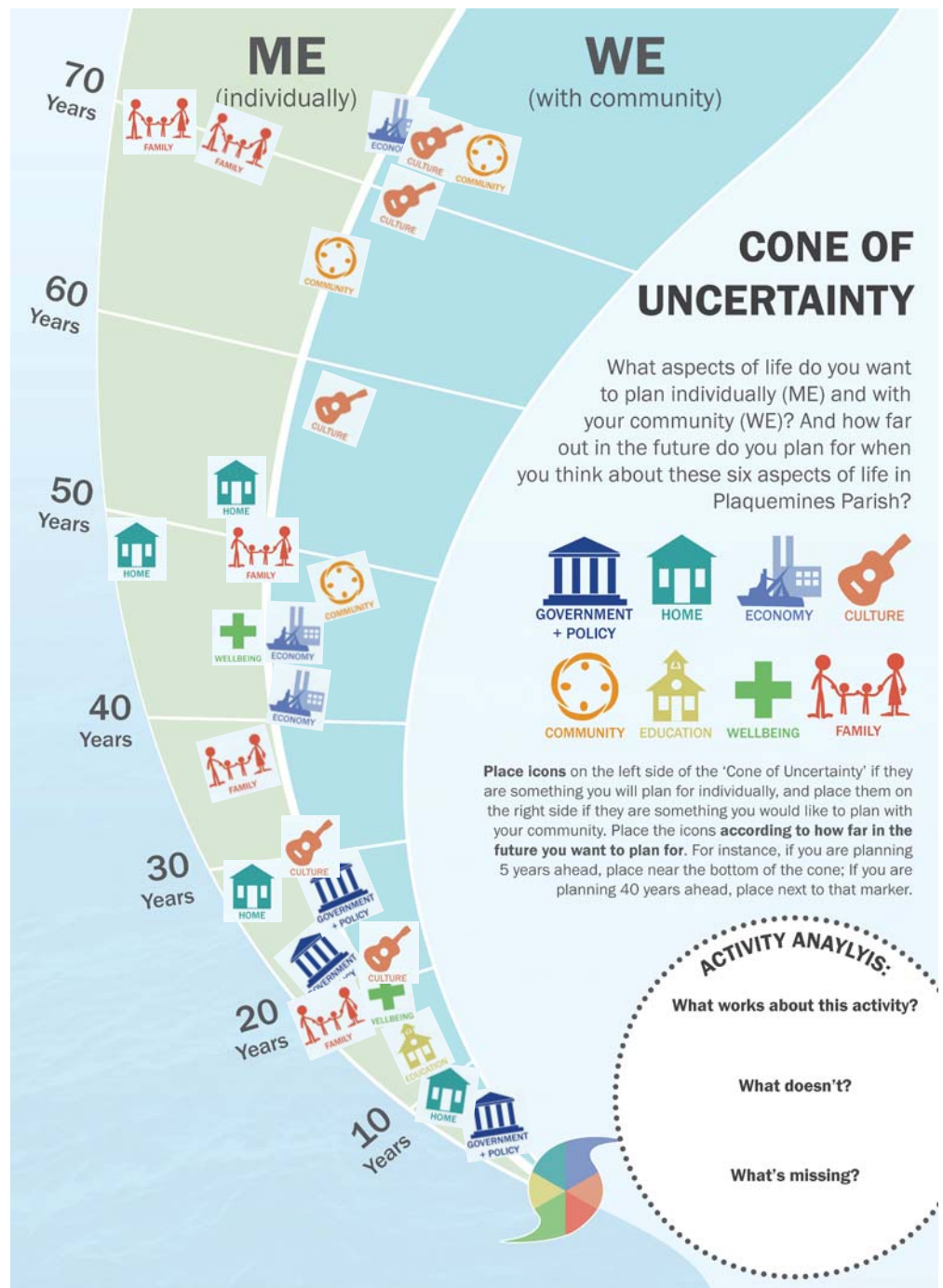


CONE OF UNCERTAINTY

The Cone of Uncertainty activity assessed residents thoughts on how far into the future they want to plan for 8 areas of life. Additionally, the activity asked participants to think about if they want to plan each of these domains individually (ME) or with community (WE).

Residents placed the icons for these domains on the Cone of Uncertainty graphic to respond. Generally, residents clustered their time frames for planning around the 25 year mark, the 50 year mark, and the 70 year mark, which roughly correlates to 1, 2, or 3 generations. The graphic to the right depicts the board and where residents placed their icons. The results are organized below.

	Avg. Years ahead to prepare:	Median: ME, WE, or Both
	18	Both
	35	ME
	53	WE
	51	WE
	63	WE
	15	Both
	33	Both
	50	ME



Residents liked this activity for being visual and tactile and for engaging them to think about planning for different aspects of life and timeframes for doing so.

This activity, like the others, needed more time for explanation and discussion. Residents thought that there should be more time devoted to clarifying vague concepts and coming to common definitions about the eight areas of life that they were asked to think about. Some thought that there were too many icons and that they were too big. There should also be a way for residents to elaborate or capture thoughts about these domains and how they want to plan for them. Some thought that the hurricane analogy was confusing.

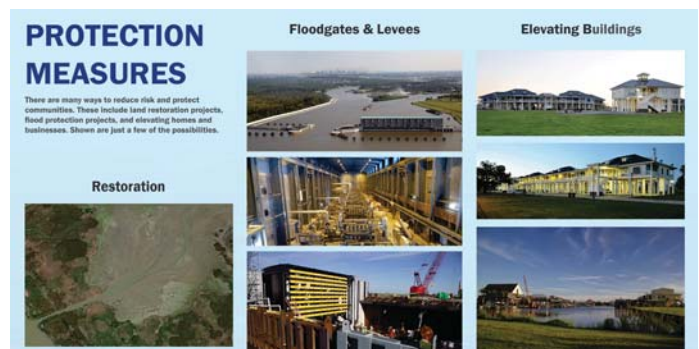
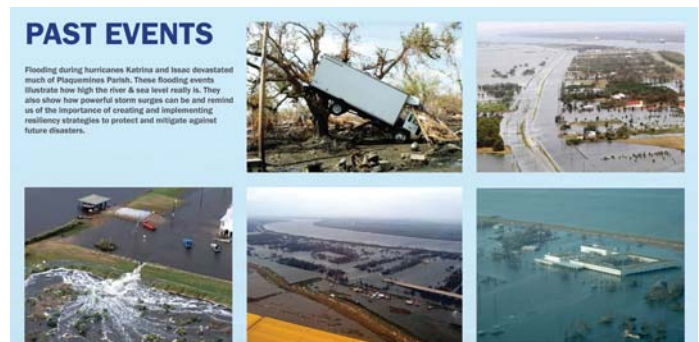
This activity can be made stronger by capturing the age diversity of respondents and how that correlates with perspectives on the planning forecast.

PHOTOS AND STORYTELLING

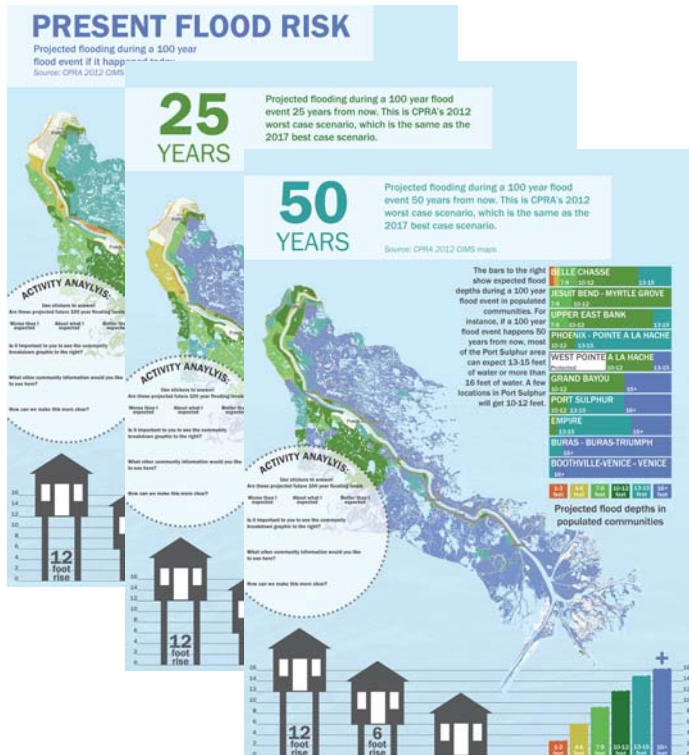
The photos and storytelling activity framed the picture of coastal change in four ways: changing landscapes, past events, protection measures, and what's at stake. Richie Blink and Colette Pichon Battle hosted this station and talked with residents about firsthand and secondhand experiences in the parish.

Residents connected to this activity in a more personal way than the others, as it prompted them to look at what's already lost and contemplate the impacts in the future.

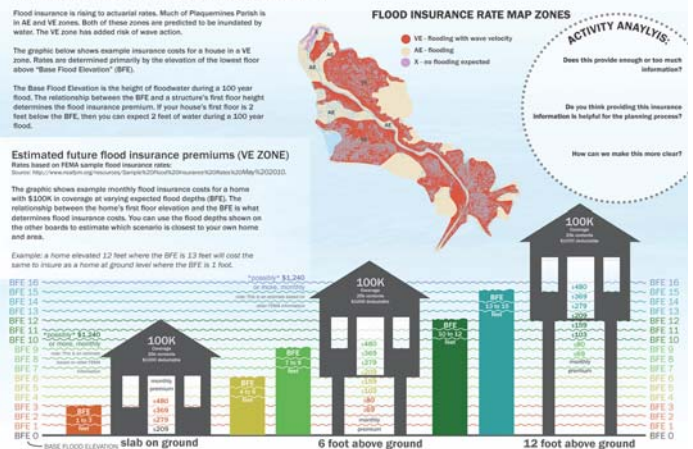
Resident comments illustrate that they would like to see the whole story of coastal loss told, from the engineered levees, to canals and drilling, to sea level rise, and all of the impacts these have had on people on the coast already.



FLOOD RISK MAPS



FLOOD INSURANCE



Residents had different opinions about the flood insurance board, which depicted cost scenarios for different 100-year flood depths and 3 different building heights. Some residents thought it was understandable, but at least one found the information to be presented backwards, opposite to his intuition. Because this information will have direct impact on housing costs and property values in the near future, it is important to make this information as clear as possible to everyone.

Another area of comment was the language used: terms and phrases like "Base Flood Elevation," "100 year flood," "Biggert Waters," and "50-year best case scenario" are not familiar to everybody. More time is needed to explain the background on these subjects as simply and clearly as possible. In the future, these activities will be refined to be clearer, and more direct.

ORDER OF ACTIVITIES

Over half the residents agreed that the best order for the three information stations is:

- 1) Photos & Discussion
- 2) Flood Risk Maps
- 3) Cone of Uncertainty

ACTIVITY 2: MEETING GOALS, TIMELINE, & LOCATIONS

The second portion of the Core Committee meeting was focused on the logistics and goals for community meetings during the planning process. Residents worked at five round tables to review the meeting timeline and goals for each meeting. They revised and suggested other goals for the process. On another sheet, residents recommended meeting locations and venues.

COMMUNITY MEETING GOALS AND TIMELINE

GOALS	Month 1 Parish Wide Meeting	Month 2 Planning Areas Meeting	Month 3 Planning Areas Meeting	Month 4 Parish Wide Meeting	Month 5 Planning Areas Meeting	Month 6 Planning Areas Meeting	Month 7 Parish Wide Meeting
REVIEW 25 + 50 YEAR COASTAL CHANGE OUTLOOK	○	○	1	1	1	1	1
IDENTIFY PARISH + COMMUNITY NEEDS	○	○		1			1
PRIORITIZE COMMUNITY NEEDS		○	○				
ADDRESS OPPORTUNITIES	2)	2)	○	○	1	1	1
ESTABLISH PARISH WIDE PRIORITIES	1		1	○			
CREATE MITIGATION + ADAPTATION STRATEGIES				○	○		
PROPOSE POLICY CHANGES					○	○	
REVIEW + CONFIRM RESILIENCY PLAN COMPONENTS					○	○	○

This graphic shows the schedule recommended by the Support Team in white and the suggested changes by table groups at the Core Committee meeting in black.

1) Suggested by 1 table groups

2) Suggested by 2 table groups

For this activity, residents reviewed a community engagement process timeline and made recommendations about additions and changes to it. Residents didn't have many alterations to the meeting goals, but they did suggest additional ones.

Additional Goals in the meeting timeline:

- Include Historic Landscape + Change.
- Review Current Plans and Situation (What is our current state?).
- Education on timeline for Mitigation – Long Term.
- What is the impact of CPRA projects on everyone.

Goals pertaining to the process overall:

- Peer to Peer education.
- More Communication between community, State, Parish, Federal governments.
- Attend School Board Meetings.
- Connect Real Politicians to Residents and Impacted Communities.

Timeline

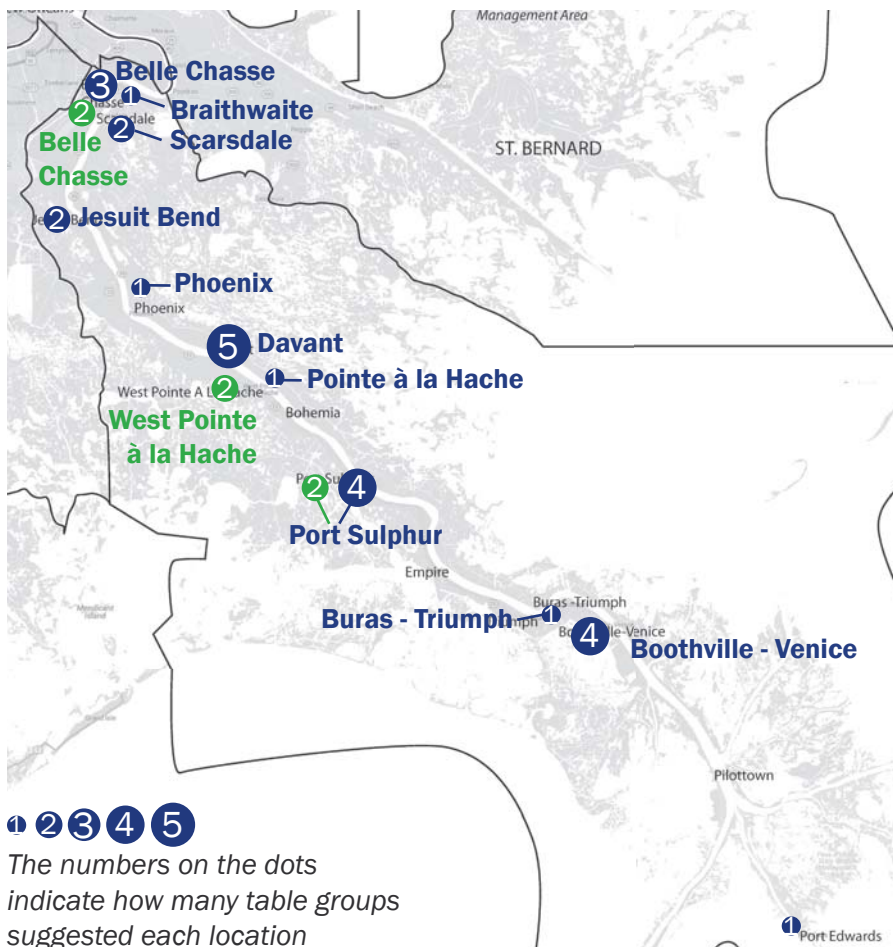
Residents felt the timeline is the right length; one groups noted that “you have to expect the unexpected.” Groups did suggest some adjustments to the order of addressing each goal. The graphic above shows the range of thought about addressing goals at more meetings than the Support Team originally suggested. One table, for instance, thought that the 25 - 50 year coastal outlook should be reviewed at each meeting, while another though that opportunities should be addressed at each meeting.

MEETING LOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting process will involve three Parish-wide meetings and several meetings in five individual planning areas. To determine planning area and Parish-wide meeting locations, each table group placed **5 blue stickers** on a Parish map to indicate where planning area meetings should be held. They placed **one green sticker** where they thought the Parish-wide meeting should be held.

The graphic below depicts the top choices. As you see, groups were evenly split on where the **Parish-wide meeting** should be held; 2 tables said Belle Chasse, 2 said West Pointe à la Hache, and 2 said Port Sulphur.

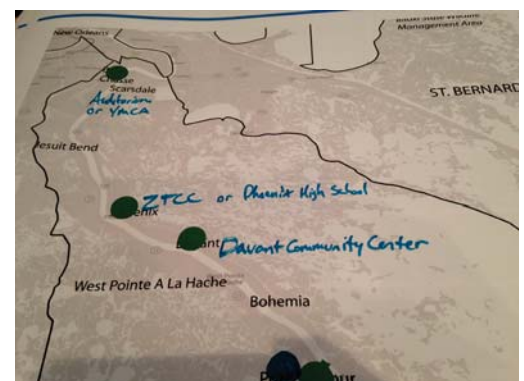
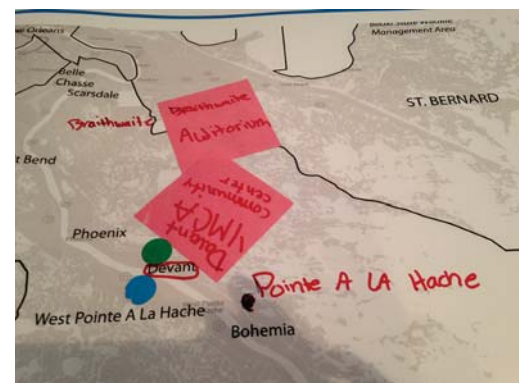
The **planning area meeting** locations are clearer. Residents clustered meeting locations in or near Belle Chasse, Davant, Port Sulphur, Boothville - Venice, and Scarsdale. The map below shows all the suggested locations. Larger dots and numbers indicate more frequently suggested locations.



Venues

Residents also suggested meeting venues in some of these places:

- **Davant:** YMCA, Davant Community Center
- **Boothville-Venice:** Chu Phuong's House, Boothville High School, YMCA
- **Port Sulphur:** YMCA
- **Belle Chasse:** Belle Chasse Middle School, Belle Chasse Auditorium, YMCA
- **Phoenix:** YMCA
- **Braithwaite:** Auditorium
- **Buras-Triumph:** Buras Auditorium, Trinity Methodist Church



INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES SUMMARY

After the group activities, residents filled out a questionnaire about the meeting, information presented, and how the process can be improved. Residents cited many of the same opportunities for improvement, which will inform how future meetings will be conducted. Major points are listed below. Full verbatim responses are in the appendix.

Evaluation of activities and presentation -

Residents generally agreed that the meeting and activities were good and the process is on the right track. Despite their recommended improvements, they were impressed with the activities as they were.

Most residents said that the amount of information, discussion, and structure was just right. About 40% said that there should be more information and discussion.

Time - Many comments about how to improve the meeting relate to the time devoted to each topic. This meeting was full of many activities that each required more time for explanation, discussion, and feedback. The pace of future meetings should be slower and allow for deeper focus on fewer topics.

Clarity - The presentations and activities need to be clearer. Many residents thought that the explanations about the process were too vague. Likewise, it was unclear how the individual activities fit into the big picture. Terminology should be clearly defined and simplified so no one is lost.

Breakout Groups - Several people mentioned the need for specialty groups to focus on different areas of expertise, e.x. fishing, oil, economy, etc.

Sound - Residents stressed the need for better acoustics. The B.C. Auditorium is very loud. Residents were distracted by the noise and found it hard to hear the speaker.

Missing information

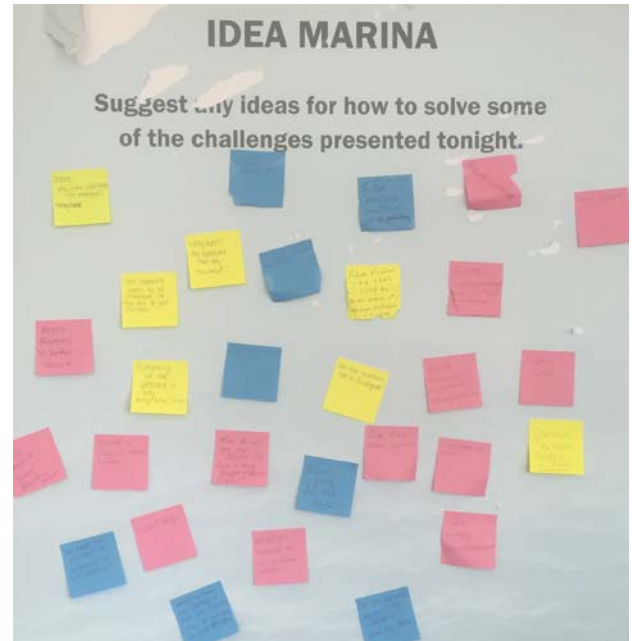
- **History** - Residents wanted to start with a clear story of land loss on the gulf coast. In order to move forward about future change, it's necessary to understand how we've arrived where we are.
- **Current and Planned Projects** - Share information about existing projects underway and those that are planned. Inform residents about how these effect the outlook in Plaquemines Parish.
- **Short Term Risks & Opportunities** - Some residents felt that in order to excite more people about this process, more attention needs to be given to the present risk and opportunities for solutions in the short term, in addition to thinking long term.

Concerns

- **Attendance & Skepticism** - Residents are worried that not enough people will find it worth their time to show up. If people don't believe that these meetings and process will be different from other meetings they've attended, then this process will struggle to gain momentum.
- **Political Will** - Residents are worried that political interests are too entrenched. Even if a great plan is made, how do they gain confidence that it won't sit on a shelf?
- **Inequity & Inclusion** - Some residents are concerned that their area of the Parish, the Eastbank, gets too little attention. Others cited the need to make the process accessible to English learners.

IDEA MARINA

At the end of the meeting, residents spent 20 minutes in open discussion. During this time, they had the option to add ideas to an “Idea Marina” board. This board is for planning ideas or any thoughts that will prime some of the brainstorming sessions at the future planning meetings. The full list of ideas is in the appendix.



NEXT STEPS

After this meeting summary is shared with the Support Team and Core Committee, the Support Team will complete a Planning Framework Document that will serve as a road map for the Planning Process ahead. The work from the two Core Committee Meetings will directly inform this document. Core Committee Members will be invited to comment on and adjust this before it is finalized.

The Support Team is planning to kick off the Parish-wide meeting process in the fall. Over the summer the Support Team will hire a communications consultant to make sure that the meetings are widely publicized and to maximize turnout. An evaluator will also be brought on board to monitor the progress of the work as a model for other communities. The Support Team will research and craft presentation material around the information that the Core Committee identified as missing.

The Support Team will keep in communication with Core Committee Members about the process development.

If anyone has any questions about this process or the results from the Core Committee Meetings, they can contact Connor McManus - cmcmanus@concordia.com.

APPENDIX: COMPLETE MEETING FEEDBACK

Below are the verbatim comments and notes that residents wrote for each activity:

CONE OF UNCERTAINTY**What Works?**

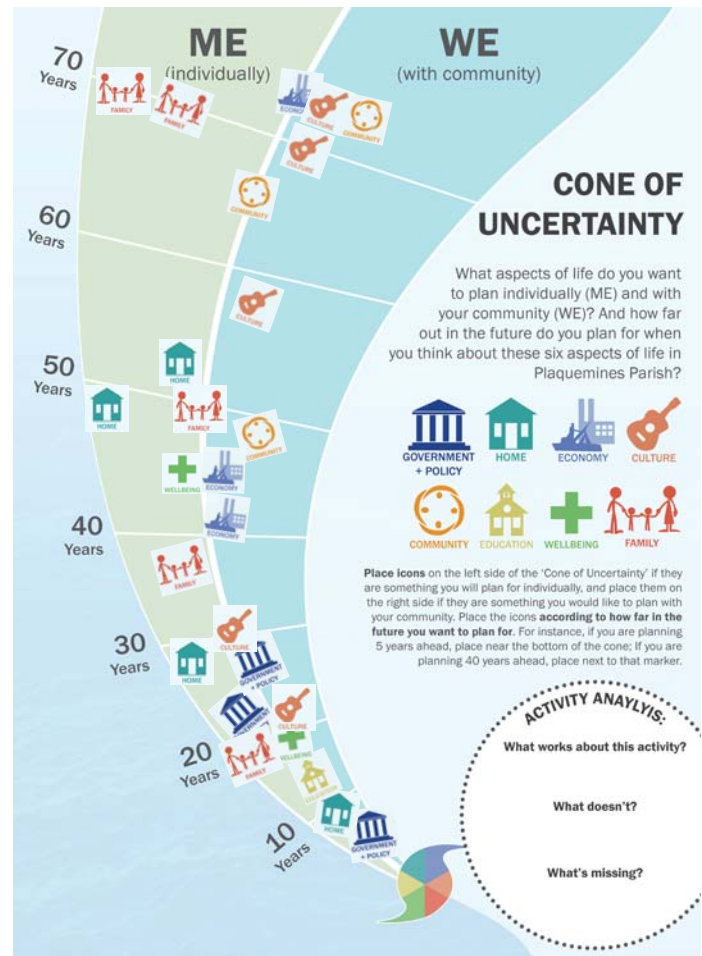
- Show similarities and differences between age, we vs I, etc. Age diversity and responses and perspectives. Seeing how others define general or vague concepts such as “well being.”
- Discussion surrounding “why?” icons placed when, they are very rich + important.
- Visual and tactile.
- Forecasting.
- Show similarities/ differences between age, we vs I, etc. Age diversity and responses/ perspective. Seeing how others define general/ vague concepts ex. “well being.”

What doesn't work? How can we make this more clear?

- Takes time to think about.
- Confusion over framing; “if I’m basing it on....???”
- (need) Shorter time frame.
- Clarity on topics.
- Hurricane analogy is confusing.
- Clear understand of how we are defining....”
- More space at the bottom and smaller stickers.
- Leave some blanks to fill out personal context/ content.
- Assumes knowledge about “cone of uncertainty.”
- Living in Plaquemines vs working here ex: home icon.

What's missing?

- Those impacted by Katrina vs those not.



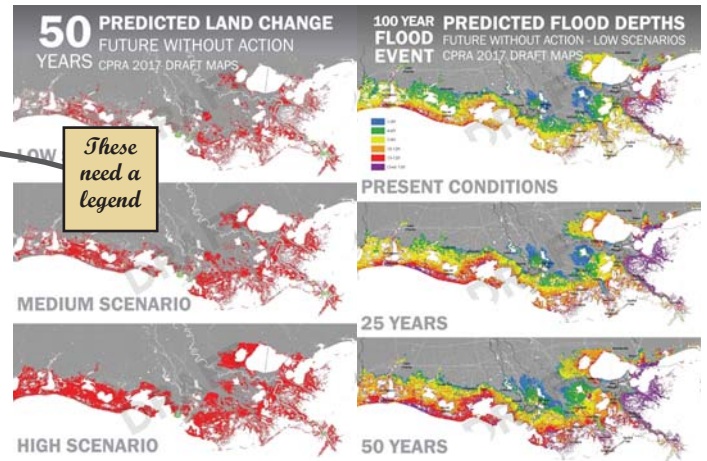
FLOOD RISK BOARDS

CPRA Predicted Land Change

- These need a legend.

Present Risk

- I don't believe Belle Chasse is protected. False sense of security.
- Not everyone will know what a 100-year flood is.
- Condense this information and put it in the local newspaper.
- It's not clear that the domino effect of storms and land loss is included in the projections.
- Add Irontown to the list on the right.
- Why only Belle Chasse and West Point à la Hache protected, and us in Phoenix and Boothville are not?

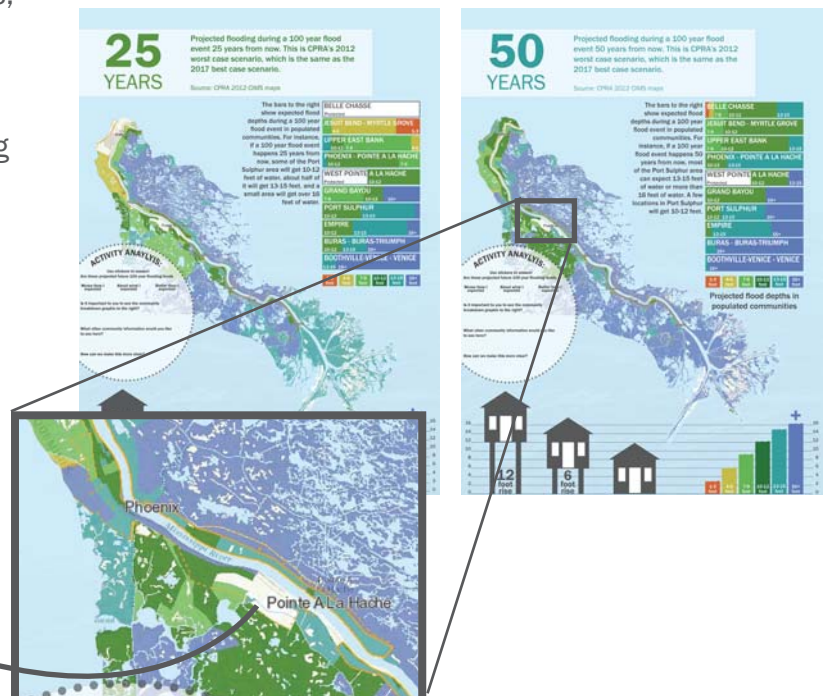


25 Year Risk

- Why are they spending more money protecting the side that is in less danger (youth)?
- Add elevation scales to these maps.
- Label all communities.
- Add labels for places of public domain: schools, hospitals, emergency response.
- Why don't we on the Eastbank get respect? Floodwall/gate. Levees/risen. Can't get any business. Help? Meetings are held and nothing is happening (youth).

50 Year Risk

- Why is only West Pointe à la Hache protected? This makes no sense. They're gonna say that you're protecting Billy Nungesser's house.
- West Pointe à la Hache is wrong.



Comments on community breakdown graphic

- Multi-colored bars are not helpful.
- Bars are confusing.
- Or pop out the bars near the areas (zoom ins).
- Add Irontown - historic community.

Comments on Flood Risks

- No one is surprised about the risk.
- They can do all the models you want - They don't know what will happen.
- Until something like that happens (storm+ flooding) you don't think about it.
- Not wanting to think about Katrina...
- When I was a kid, a category 1 hurricane was no big deal.
- Need to explain what 25 - 50 - 100 year flood event/storm means. Difficult to conceptualize what that means.

Comments on Insurance Rates + Board

- Is height taken into account for wind insurance? Now we're susceptible to more wind instead of more waves. If we all elevate to avoid flood insurance, do have greater risk of our house blowing over in higher winds?
- The average house is closer to 200k, not 100k.
- I think if people read this, they will understand.
- The numbers are backwards to me. They should get lower as they go up.
- How accurate are these rates? Margin of error? Average?
- These insurance rates are very confusing. (youth)
- Compensation after a flood should be based on the dollar value of the property before the storm.
- These insurance companies in New York don't understand.

Other Comments

- When you're talking about how you're gonna fix this, who's toes are you gonna step on?



FLOOD INSURANCE

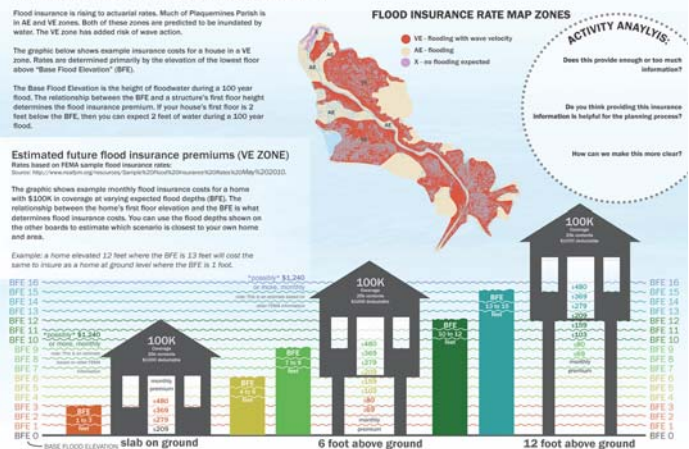


PHOTO BOARDS

What's missing from these images?

- The people.
- The \$ Question.
- Human contribution to wetland loss.
- As the first image of "What's at stake," prioritize placement of homes.
- Nuances of levees - what communities are protected? - Temporary "solution."
- The connection between cypress swamps and native life.
- Cypress swamps protected and enjoyed by Native Americans vs. industry that cut the cypress, vs. how the levees were engineered not listening to the fishermen.
- Economy driven over environment and people--> "Slow down and back off the harvesting of the delta."
- History of Delta built by river.

What works about this activity?

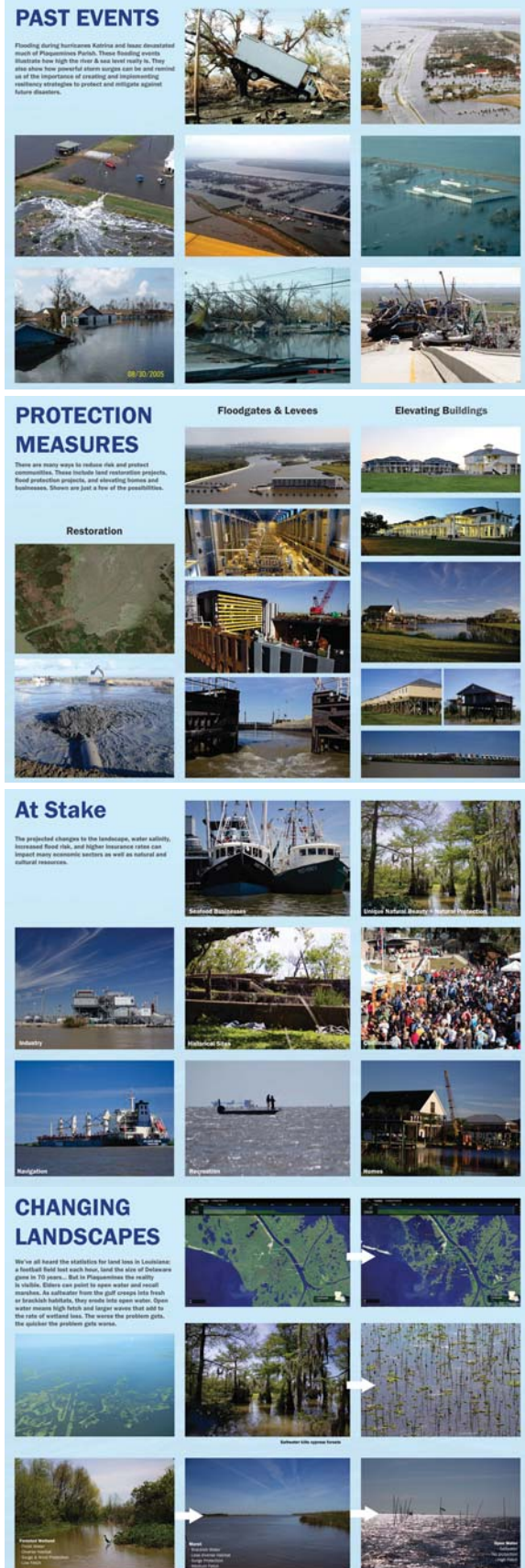
- Time line requires some innovative solutions to rebuild landscape to open up natural process.
- Ability to ask questions.
- Discussion about: levees, nature, storm protection, history of coastal land.

What doesn't?

- Start at the beginning with healthy estuary --> levee--> oil and gas. (tell the story of the decline).
- Follow timeline of environmental impacts.

Other Comments

- "We engineered the demise, we need to re-engineer its rebirth."
- We went through serious changes. Wildlife - wide open water in Empire. Why don't we just let our land be marsh? If we keep having hurricanes.



MEETING GOALS AND TIMELINE

Is this timeline too long? Too short?

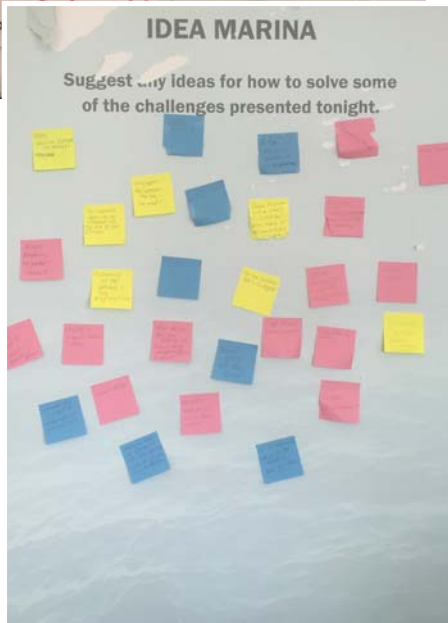
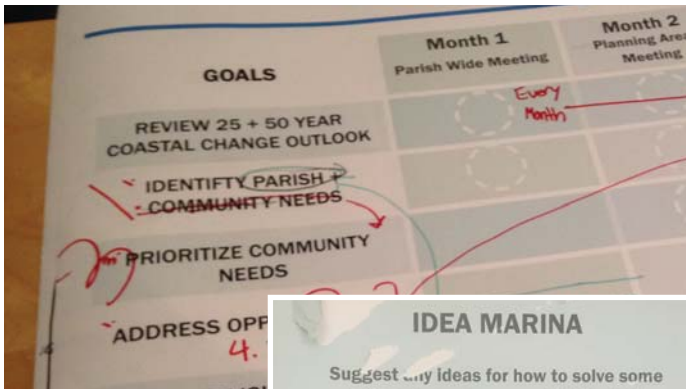
- Neither. Expect the unexpected! Because what happens if one small change causes a big chain reaction!! The time is exceeding their results.
- Possibly can be done w/fewer, but more meetings, more information.

Is there anything else you would change about this process timeline?

- They should review.

Other notes:

- One group suggested to include wetland restoration jobs in the “Address opportunities” goal.
- “They should take State Officials, bring them to our community and show them our way of life.



IDEA MARINA

- Short term: Raise every home outside of 100 year protection.
- Future elevation funding shall be limited to areas outside of 100 year protection system.
- Can the Eastbank get a floodgate?
- How do we get the state to buy in and support the Parish Vision?
- Dual homestead exemption.
- Using borrow pits as protected harbors/ home sites.
- Poulders - Compartmentalized levees limit risk of breaching.
- Floating school.
- New economies.
- Aquaculture.
- Concrete rebar blocks in strategic locations.
- Clean energy development.
- Living better with water.
- Beer pong for the coast.
- To cut the noise, try to put the 3 groups in breakout rooms.
- Retrofit harbors to handle higher waters.
- Everything in the Eastbank is why...why? Why? Why?
- Bring people to learn of Restoration projects.
- Rebuild a robust wetland buffer.
- We need the US Corps of Engineers at our meetings.
- Rebuild ridges.
- Maybe we could add pictures of past Plaquemines parish tours of wetlands. Would be helpful.
- Eastbank needs a hospital.
- Concern: why is the Eastbank not protected?
- Why doesn't the Eastbank have any business?
- The Eastbank needs to be protected like the rest of the parishes.
- Move meeting to better venue.
- 20 years. No culture= no way of life.
- Eastbank should be more protected from floods.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

What was missing from the information tonight?

- Real sea level rise data, opportunities for adapting to change. How to pay for it all. Ideas from around the world, visionaries.
- Eastbank needs PROTECTION.
- Tonight was missing more information about the Eastbank.
- Why doesn't the Eastbank have any respect? Why? No floodgate, business.
- More history of how the Delta formed and why that's important now, given the land loss Plaquemines is facing.
- Only thing that concerned me was not actually knowing what the goal of some of the exercises and some of the terminology used. Some things need to be defined better.
- Clear explanation of flood maps, BFE + costs associated (insurance). Maps from 200, 150, 100 + 50 years ago.

What order would you present these three informational activities if you could choose?

# of Votes	Order
11	Photos, Flood Risk, Cone of Uncertainty
3	Cone of Uncertainty, Flood Risk, Photos
3	Cone of Uncertainty, Photos, Flood Risk
1	Flood Risk, Cone of Uncertainty, Photos
1	Flood Risk, Photos, Cone of Uncertainty
1	Photos, Cone of Uncertainty, Flood Risk

Note about why one person chose the order Photos, Flood Risk, Cone of Uncertainty: "I chose this order because it's less confusing starting with the photos."

How can we improve these presentations for the full community? (residents circled one of three options. Tallys of responses are below)

Information		
<i>Need More</i>	<i>Just Right</i>	<i>Need Less</i>
8.5	11.5	0

Discussion		
<i>Need More</i>	<i>Just Right</i>	<i>Need Less</i>
7.5	10.5	1

Structure		
<i>Need More</i>	<i>Just Right</i>	<i>Need Less</i>
6	13	0

Anything Else?

- Better Food.
- 20 Years no culture = no way of life.
- We can improve the presentations for the full community by sending powerpoints to our community.
- A little more history about how the land was built, how we got into this problem, would be helpful.
- Explain where we've come from where we are not and where we are going.
- Age diversity. Please don't have meetings here (B.C. Aud) if can't get drapes back up - it's an echo chamber.
- More time during break-outs.
- More information on current projects, projected projects. What is good of discussion?
- Projects to address problems, exploration of what the exercise entails.
- The 3 discussion groups got loud and were a bit distracting. Please consider a way to mitigate the noise.
- Take your time and explain to folks. Maybe less activities/ breakouts.
- Because they need more clarity on the task at hand.
- We accomplished getting feedback from different perspectives.
- Clearer assignments for participants.
- Are you asking independently or as a whole? Whole broken down to sub-groups.

What did we accomplish today?

- Setting a timeline.
- Everything.
- I accomplished that the Westbank get more than the Eastbank.
- Share info - educate.
- Honed in on topics/info.
- Nothing we already didn't know.
- Direction to get community Parish input + urgency.
- Next step in the planning process.
- Good progress on the journey.
- We accomplished a lot today by having more feedback.
- Provided good information to improve the presentations for the parish-wide meetings.
- More information, clarifying points of interest.
- Very informational.
- Good to start talking about meeting locations.
- How to bring all of the parish together for a good discussion.
- Communication.
- We accomplished the tasks at hand but all in all every rotation has room for some kind of improvement.
- Nothing.
- Good connection. Good variety including the kids.
- Gathered feedback from community leaders.
- Addressing questions that needs to clear - up into groups (subgrouping).

What are your concerns?

- No money, political will for real systemic change.
- Why the Eastbank not protected? Why can't we have a floodgate?
- Eastbank Levee systems, no hospitals for the Eastbank.
- Why the Eastbank don't have any businesses. Why can't our levees be worked on? Everything is "why" for the Eastbank.
- Not enough history of delta.
- Perhaps looking too far into the future.

- More spinning wheels.
- The coastal erosion projections + lack of interest due to people believing they have heard it before and nothing will be done.
- Need more people. Less attended session 2 than session 1.
- My concerns are how would the information about the meetings get out.
- I am not convinced that our work will lead to a meaningful coastal restoration action. Our politicians may be/remain an obstacle.
- Attendance (diversity) age - income etc. The state will not support Parish vision.
- Nothing will get accomplished.
- The goals are still amorphous and unclear. What do we want to get and how will it be used.
- We need to get the word out to more people.
- Time.
- I'm concerned for the clearness of the task at hand.
- The presentations were great.
- Getting right community leaders involved.
- Language access for Vietnamese English language learners.
- Are we addressing the economy side when/if something happens to get up and running first to jump start the parish?

What did you think about the presentations today?

- Overall it was good and I received a lot of information.
- The presentations were great they just need more time for us to talk on how we feel.
- Very good - again, explain time line 1200 years - present.
- Were good - meeting schedule page was confusing.
- Facilitators are organized and sincerely interested.
- Visually pleasing but somewhat confusing on maps.
- I think they were good for a 2nd meeting.
- Good start in identifying different areas.

- I think the presentations were wonderful because it went into more details.
- Overall, the presentations were very good.
- Shows growth of process.
- Good, with the changes made it can be great.
- Pretty good. Less presentations and more room to talk - and listen - the better!
- Right on point and very informative.
- Cones of uncertainty - fun.
- I think every presentation was astounding but they all have room for improvement.
- Nothing.
- Not enough discussions on specific topics.
- Some of them may have required more background information.
- Very good - again, explain time line 1200 years - present.

What would you change when we present to the whole community?

- More information about the risks.
- I would change that their should be more information given about our environment.
- Same as above (more information + history).
- 2 of the stations had 1) too many pictures @ Richie's. - Show before/after like he did. - maybe not protection measures. 2) at Connor's, do away with first 2 on left.
- More specifics as to potential action plan. Talk in terms of more immediate gratification as well as 25-50 years into future.
- Facts + stats must be solid in presentation.
- Clarify on the exercises to allow people to think a little more about how they answer.
- Feedback on what has been provided.
- I would change nothing.
- Again, get a good microphone and work on a better way to cut the noise.
- Simplify!
- More clear on what is meant to be accomplished.

- You should try to get folks talking - but it depends on the size of the meeting. Perhaps build an agenda - ask the participants to build an agenda.
- Nothing much.
- Summary Report.
- The venue can't hear much from presenter. Make meeting more specific and shorter. 3 hours is too much.
- More people with varying areas of expertise.
- Better questioning in clear terms for the normal people can understand.

Other Comments

- Does Plaquemines Parish have a flood plan?
- People don't want to feel like they don't know what's going on. Better explanations of what goals are. CAB spoke to Shane Mayfeed.