

## **2017 Draft Coastal Master Plan Talking Points**

*Speakers can choose whichever statement(s) that fits their role/interest best.*

- **Thank you for your past work in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins,** including the recent completion of work in Bayou Lafourche and the Caminada Headlands, which are highlighted in the FY18 Annual Plan document.
- **Get restoration done now:** One of the most significant and urgent issues facing our state is the loss of our coast, especially in the epicenter of that loss in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins.
  - We are encouraged to see the plan include reconfigured implementation periods that prioritize how projects should be advanced over time, including the critical first 10 year implementation period.
  - We are supportive of the prioritization of projects that are allocated funds from any source, regardless of implementation period.
  - The state should focus funding on large-scale restoration projects first, so they can have a greater impact over time and support investments made in other restoration and risk-reduction projects.
  - In addition to the steady revenue stream coming to the state over the next 15 years from the BP settlement, the people of Louisiana and its leaders must develop additional and dependable revenue streams and cost-saving opportunities, such as bonding and creative financing for projects, to fund the master plan in its entirety.
- **I support the consistent master plan process,** as it is publicly-informed, grounded in the best available science, balances coastal restoration with protection and is realistic about the challenges we face.
  - **We would like to acknowledge the expanded outreach for the 2017 Master Plan.** ROR was a proud partner on both the Master Plan Data Viewer and the Community Conversations this fall, where we were able to reach hundreds more residents of coastal communities impacted directly by the Plan.
- **To secure a sustainable future for coastal Louisiana, we need to use the land-building power of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers to the greatest extent possible.**
  - I am encouraged to see both freshwater and sediment diversions remain a cornerstone of the master plan, as they are crucial to both building and maintaining land as well as protecting investments made in levees and other protection projects, including projects like Increasing Freshwater into Terrebonne and the Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion, although we believe Increase Atch should fall under Central and Southeast Projects rather than Southwest.
  - The state should explore leveraging the land-building powers of the rivers on an even greater scale in future versions of the master plan.
- **In addition to diversions, Louisiana's land loss crisis requires a comprehensive suite of restoration projects,** including barrier islands, marsh creation, hydrologic restoration, ridge restoration, shoreline protection and oyster reef restoration.
  - I support continued barrier island and headland restoration and maintenance, an important component of our coastal restoration toolkit that should be prioritized and funded going forward.
  - We are grateful to see in the inclusion of extensive marsh creation south of Golden Meadow. Restoration in the area provides a tremendous amount of protection for those within the Larose to Golden Meadow system, as well as the people of the Terrebonne Basin should a storm approach our coast, crossing the Lafourche ridge.
- **I applaud CPRA for strengthening its non-structural program,** which gives parishes detailed information on flood risk reduction and improved resiliency – such as home elevation, flood proofing and VOLUNTARY relocation.
- **The state should take advantage of the tremendous economic and job creation opportunities available by advancing the master plan.**
  - Over the next 10 years, nearly 60,000 jobs will be supported by investments in restoration, with 24,000 jobs created in the New Orleans region alone in water management and energy sectors.
  - Recent analysis has shown the water management sector is the fastest growing job sector in Louisiana's Coastal Zone, with an average salary of nearly \$70,000.