



R. KING MILLING

OPENING REMARKS TALKING POINTS

**AMERICA'S WETLAND FOUNDATION
COASTAL WETLAND COMMUNITIES ADAPTATION LEADERSHIP FORUM
NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY
AUGUST 29, 2018 – 9:30 AM**

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY AS WE ONCE AGAIN COMMENCE A CONVERSATION FOCUSING UPON THE CHALLENGES FACING OUR COASTAL COMMUNITIES AS THEY CONFRONT THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF HOW THEY ARE TO ADAPT TO COASTAL LAND LOSS IN AN EVER MORE THREATENING ENVIRONMENT.

I WANT TO GIVE A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS IN HOSTING TODAY'S MEETING - BHP AND RESOURCE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS (RES). THEY HAVE AIDED IN BRINGING US TOGETHER.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF ENTERGY, IN 2011 AND 2012, WE SPONSORED A SERIES OF MEETINGS ENTITLED BLUE RIBBON RESILIENT COMMUNITIES LEADERSHIP FORUMS.

IT WAS A CURIOUS TITLE - FOR, AT THE TIME, THE WORD RESILIENCY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE PENDING TRAGEDY FACING SOUTH LOUISIANA WAS LITTLE UNDERSTOOD.

THOSE FORUMS WERE SUPPORTED BY ANALYSIS DERIVED FROM A STUDY CONDUCTED BY SWISS RE AND MCKINSEY AND COMPANY TO ESTABLISH - BY ZIP CODE - THE VULNERABILITY OF COMMUNITIES IN THE GULF COAST - FROM WHAT WAS THEN CONSIDERED THE LIMITS OF SEA LEVEL RISE.

THAT INFORMATION ALLOWED THE FOUNDATION TO CONDUCT DETAILED INTERVIEWS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS IN MORE THAN A DOZEN GULF COAST COMMUNITIES TO DISCUSS THEIR RESILIENCY AND TO FOCUS ON THEIR STRENGTHS AND VULNERABILITIES.

IN ADDITION, DURING THE PAST 8 YEARS, THE FOUNDATION HELD TWO WORLD DELTA DIALOGUES THE FIRST IN NEW ORLEANS AND THEN VIETNAM - THUS BRINGING IN COASTAL LEADERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES COPING WITH THE CHALLENGES FACING THEIR GREAT DELTAS. THROUGH THESE DIALOGUES, WE CONFIRMED MUCH OF WHAT WE'VE LEARNED IN HOW TO ADDRESS THE RESILIENCY ISSUES LOUISIANA COASTAL COMMUNITIES ARE GRAPPLING WITH.

TODAY, SOME FIVE YEARS AFTER THE HO CHI MINH CONFERENCE, WE RETURN TO THE TERREBONNE/LAFOURCHE REGION TO COMMENCE ANOTHER ROUND OF FORUMS FOCUSED THIS TIME ON NOT ONLY RESILIENCY, BUT

"ADAPTATION" DEFINED FOR THIS PURPOSE AS "THE PROCESS OF CHANGING TO ADJUST TO NEW SITUATIONS."

FOR TODAY WE CONFRONT REVISED LAND LOSS MAPS THAT GREATLY EXPAND THE PROBABILITY OF RISK AND DAMAGE FROM SEA LEVEL RISE AND STORM SURGE FAR BEYOND THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA - TO MIAMI, NORFOLK, BALTIMORE, HOUSTON, NEW YORK, THE NEW JERSEY COAST, BOSTON, SAN FRANCISCO AND SEATTLE.

LORD KNOWS JUST HOW MANY COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE WORLD FACE SIMILAR CONSEQUENCES.

TODAY WE BRING TOGETHER LEADERS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR: LANDOWNERS, FOUNDATIONS, NGOS, RESTORATION FIRMS, ELECTED OFFICIALS - AS ALL OF US EMBARK ON PROJECTS THAT CAN AND SHOULD ADD VALUE TO SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY THE STATE'S MASTER PLAN NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

FOR EVEN AS DISTINCT PROJECTS ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED, REALITY CAN CHANGE AND THE NEED FOR INNOVATION CAN RESULT.

THE VALUE OF MORGANZA TO THE GULF AS A PROTECTIVE DEVICE TO AVOID FLOODING WAS CLEAR FROM THE ONSET - BUT THE REMARKABLE REDUCTION IN SALTWATER INTRUSION INTO THE DEPTHS OF IMPACTED PARISHES BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF COMPLEX FLOODGATES AND LOCKS - NOT ONLY ENHANCES THE FRESHWATER VEGETATION BUT FACILITATES LARGE-SCALE TERRACING AND OTHER MITIGATING PROJECTS.

SIMILARLY, AS BARRIER ISLANDS ARE RE-ENVISIONED AND RECONSTRUCTED, TECHNIQUES CHANGE - NEW IDEAS SURFACE AND EVOLVE.

ADDING TO FUTURE BIODIVERSITY, GLOBAL CORPORATION BHP AND RESOURCE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS - OR R-E-S, PARTNERED WITH THE FOUNDATION ON TWO PROJECTS IN TERREBONNE PARISH.

THE FIRST WILL ADD TO THE STABILITY OF THE RECENTLY COMPLETED LEVEE SYSTEM, ENHANCE THE VEGETATION AND FURTHER PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF CHAUVIN AND OTHER LOCAL COMMUNITIES BY DEVELOPING TERRACES AND PLANTING 5,000 RESTORATIVE CYPRESS TREES AND 35,000 MARSH GRASS PLUGS AT BAYOU TERREBONNE.

IN ANOTHER INSTANCE AT - BY PLANTING 30,000 RESTORATIVE CYPRESS TREES AND CONDUCTING INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENTS TO STABILIZE AND REHABILITATE THE MARSH, POINTE-AUX-CHENES ABILITY TO OVERCOME FORCES OF STORM SURGE WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED.

THESE INSTANCES AND OTHERS ADD TO THE STATED VALUE OF ACTIVITIES ADOPTED IN THE MASTER PLAN AS WELL AS PROJECTS ADOPTED BY PARISHES - THEREBY STRENGTHENING THE OVERALL SYSTEM TO OFFSET THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE THAT OUR STATE FACES.

THIS GATHERING OF COASTAL LEADERS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS TODAY WILL HOPEFULLY BEGIN THE PROCESS OF ADDING SUBSTANCE TO THAT DIALOGUE WITH THE SAME SENSE OF URGENCY AS GOV. EDWARDS' RECENTLY NOTED IN HIS WRITTEN LETTER - WHERE HE CORRECTLY

ADVISED THAT ALL STATE AGENCIES MUST BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF OUR COMPREHENSIVE PLANS IN ORDER TO CREATE A MORE RESILIENT FUTURE.

WE CAN AND MUST MITIGATE AND DETER THE ONGOING CONSEQUENCES AS WE EXECUTE PLANS SET FORTH IN PRESENT AND FUTURE MASTER PLANS AND SEARCH FOR ANCILLARY ACTIVITIES TO AUGMENT THE INTENDED RESULTS.

FUTURE IMPLEMENTATIONS OF PROJECTS UTILIZING THAT COOPERATIVE SPIRIT FROM EVERY RESOURCE COULD ADD VALUE IN THAT END. AS ALWAYS SOME PROJECTS SELECTED IN OUR PRESENT MASTER PLAN AND THOSE TO BE ADOPTED IN FUTURE ITERATIONS MAY NOT TOTALLY IMPEDE THE THREAT FACED.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT STRONG PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN COASTAL RESTORATION BECOMES A PART OF THIS PICTURE.

THUS IT WOULD APPEAR OBVIOUS THAT ENHANCEMENTS AND INNOVATION WILL DEPEND UPON THE QUALITY, EXPERIENCE AND CAPACITY OF THOSE OVERSEEING PROGRAMS EVEN AS THEY ARE CONCEIVED AND RESURRECTED THROUGH SCIENCE.

WE NEED THE VERY BEST MINDS TO ANALYZE SUCH ACTIVITIES FROM THE PRACTICAL TO THE MOST COMPLEX.

LOUISIANA IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION AS WE LEAD THE WORLD IN KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THIS PENDING THREAT. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO OURSELVES AND TO OTHERS TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THAT POSITION, BY INCORPORATING THE DISTINCT KNOWLEDGE AND DIVERSITY OF OUR CITIZENS IN EVERY SECTOR.

WE CAN AND MUST ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OF EXCELLENCE.