

Minutes

SUBJECT: Hydrodynamic modeling brief for LACPR and MSCIP for MG Riley by Ty Wamsley and Barbara Kleiss

1. Attendees.

MG Riley, Mike Rogers, Steve Gambrell, Rayford Wilbanks, Eddie Brooks, Tom Richardson, Beth Fleming, Todd Bridges, COL Richard Jenkins, Bruce Ebersole, Ty Wamsley, Dave Tazik, Barbara Kleiss, Susan Rees (via telecon), Edmond Russo, Nancy Powell, Vann Stutts

2. Performance of Coastal Features.

(a) Discussion. The presenters and attendees raised the following points regarding performance of coastal features:

(1) modeling of coastal features at this point is new, cutting-edge R&D intended for simulating storm landfall decay and understanding storm stage buffering trends, supporting relative hydrodynamic performance comparisons between plans;

(2) These exploratory analyses provide early indications on the merits of the multiple lines of defense approach, beginning the understanding of the limitations wetlands have in buffering storm action. Early conclusions are that wetlands are best considered at this time as a first line of protection for structural measures from direct hydrodynamic loadings of storm forces;

(3) Results of the presence of wetlands on storm stage reductions are not for use in detailed design at this point in the analysis;

(4) More R&D is needed to expand knowledge in the field for reducing the uncertainties in wetland storm buffering performance; and

(5) Wetlands should be valued for their ecological benefits, with storm buffering potential considered a supplementary risk reduction feature to structural measures being considered, not as equally functioning to structural systems in reducing risk to people and assets.

(b) Action. Project teams must develop talking points and use them to make sure this story is told effectively in reporting and during stakeholder interactions in path ahead.

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3. Consistency in Modeling Techniques.

(a) Discussion. The presentations made on hydrodynamic modeling emphasized how consistent approaches were taken across the LACPR and MSCIP regions during analyses of surge and wave conditions for base conditions and alternative plans, promoting a systems approach.

(b) Action. Both reports will include text addressing regional aspects of LACPR and MSCIP alternatives modeling. The LACPR and MSCIP teams should strive to have the same text in each of their reports in December 2007.

4. Systems Scale Modeling.

(a) Discussion. During LACPR and MSCIP hydrodynamic modeling, a composite grid approach was taken to reasonably approximate wide sets of similarly-performing alternative measures. These results were used in tiered screening of measures for alternative plan development across the range of stakeholder interests. Evaluations will be made of the final array of alternative plans, which will be coupled with stakeholder input to render initial rankings of alternative plans.

(b) Action. Use FY 08 funding for additional modeling in responding to inquiries on the December 2007 Technical Reports to examine the effects across the LA and MS coasts that LACPR and MSCIP top-ranked alternatives synergistically have in next iterations to identify performance at the integrated comprehensive systems scale. HQUSACE will draft a memo to the teams under MG Riley's signatures to direct this action take place.