

An aerial photograph of a coastal region. The top half shows a mix of green vegetation and brownish soil. The bottom half shows a large body of blue water with a lighter greenish-brown area near the shore, possibly indicating a wetland or a specific water body. The text is overlaid on the top part of the image.

**Expert Panel on Diversion Planning and
Implementation: Meeting #6**

October 27, 2015

Expert Panel on Diversion Planning and Implementation: Background

- Convened to provide technical advice on planning and implementation of freshwater and sediment diversion projects
- Nearing end of 2nd year of meetings
- Expertise encompasses physical and biological sciences, social science, economics, and engineering
- Experience with Mississippi River and Louisiana restoration (or other large restoration projects)
- Independent and objective, but not in a position to make policy or implementation decisions

Charge to Expert Panel on Diversion Planning and Implementation

“Provide technical input, review and guidance as plans are refined on diverting freshwater and sediment from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers into adjacent estuarine basins to build, maintain and sustain coastal wetlands”



Summary of Meeting #5

- Panel meeting was held August 4-5, 2015 in Belle Chasse and N.O.; preceded by field trip on August 3
- Ten background and update presentations from CPRA, USACE, TNC, TWIG, Royal Engineering and Earth Economics, and UL-Lafayette



Summary of Meeting #5

- Recognized the urgency due to fast-approaching Fall 2015 Decision Point
- Focused on responding to questions in our charge in three broad areas:
 - (1) Fall 2015 Decision Point and beyond
 - (2) Water quality, vegetation and soils
 - (3) Socio-economic analyses
- Report summarizes our findings and offers suggestions for improving environmental monitoring and future projections
- Three recommendations only!



Report #5 Recommendations

- #1. Expand the post-2015 section of the current conceptual model of the sediment diversion planning process to provide greater detail on process linkages.
- #2. Develop a public participation plan that features the use of an independent facilitator who can provide deeper, more confident stakeholder engagement and community participation, especially on early discussion of evolving post-construction operating plans.
- #3. Establish a program for detailed peer review of the first set of technical reports on monitoring, modeling, and socio-economic analysis using subject-matter experts from outside CPRA.

Meeting #5 Report

Report of Meeting #5 available at:
www.thewaterinstitute.org

Contents Include:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction and Background
- Focus of Meeting #5
- Response to the Charge
- Recommendations for 2015
and Future Decision Points
- Appendices 1-3

EXPERT PANEL ON DIVERSION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Report #5

September 2015

Submitted to:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Charge for October 2015 Panel Meeting

- Patterns of Change: Given assumptions regarding subsidence, sea level rise, river flow and sediment availability, does the Panel see inconsistencies or problematic patterns of change in results of 50 year simulations of FWOP, individual diversions, collective diversions or changing operational regime?
- Use of Results: Is CPRA's interpretation of differences among diversions reasonable given the uncertainty involved in the analyses, and are the differences compared to FWOP on which the decision is based supported by the analyses?
- Provide recommendations beyond those made in previous Panel reports to refine the analytical approach as the selected sediment diversions move into the next phase of engineering and design.