

KEY ASSUMPTIONS FOR STRATEGIC COASTAL RESTORATION

ASSUMPTIONS

- Although methods and actions which could affect coastal issues have been proposed such as Coast 2050, there is no strategic plan which applies the techniques in a connective approach.
- We believe that we may not have enough material in the river to compensate for the rate of subsidence.
- The areas of shallow open water can be mined for sediment to create wetland and cheniers. That creating more contours is biologically beneficial.
- Working toward a linear approach on projects rather than an area approach, could reestablish systems functions with less sediment and money. (Example: Construction a strip of marsh and cheniers from the Mississippi ridge to the Lafourche ridge built along the marsh fringe.) This would form a second line to help perform the strategic function of the barrier islands.
- All the money for CWPPRA, environmental mitigation, and any other source should be coordinated in a more efficient manner to maximize the maintenance of coastal Louisiana.
- A review of Louisiana laws and initiatives to redirect attention from the threat of the river to the threats from the Gulf.
- The acquiring of right-of-ways for environmental projects must be approached with the same vigor as the need for right-of-ways for flood protection or roadway projects. The laws affecting the cost of right-of-ways should be made equitable to the state and the landowner.
- Every dollar received for restoration should have no less than 70% going toward a construction contractor building a structure to deal with the maintenance of South Louisiana. We have a physical problem that can be solved only by physical action on the ground.
- Agencies by nature of their structure focus their work on self maintenance along with their assigned work. Strong leadership above the agency level must direct agencies into purposeful work.
- The public should always be involved in an open and honest discussion on our vulnerability and our capacity to maintain what is left of South Louisiana.
- Our expansive delta and wetlands do not fit well with the federal mandates and programs. Due to a lack of understanding from our federal partners, their directives sometimes lead to results which counter their original intent.