

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Local Governments Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
Local Government	Counties want a seat at the table and to be part of the decision making process.
Local Government	Mabus report is important. We need to come together and let the Task Force know what we want and what we think needs to happen.
Local Government	The restoration should back up into the smaller water bodies and tributaries. With limited resources, it is difficult to help restore the smaller upstream water bodies in the region. There are limited resources available to the people of Prichard, Alabama.
Local Government	Difficult to get to funding sources. Resources are limited.
Local Government	Erosion a big issue. Getting to science and engineering is a problem.
Local Government	Permitting is slow and difficult, could take 2 years or more, and the cost estimates change over time. Cites 40 year time span for Corps projects to get done.
Local Government	Rules change during the process, cites Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) and Corps rules. CIAP projects must have money fronted for environmental projects, then wait to be paid back.
Local Government	Concerns about qualifying/eligibility. For example, Community Development Block (CDBG) Grants: can't get without proper lack of income.
Local Government	Don't want federal funding going to Montgomery and used for administration costs, rather than reaching the projects that need it.



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Local Government	Cash drafts a problem. Reimbursement scheme doesn't work and is too slow. Takes months to years to get money back.
Local Government	No storm water management plan in Baldwin County. Without a plan, could be wasting money. No funding source for a plan. tried to fund planning locally and public saw this as another tax.
Local Government	Need a watershed level plan. South half of county connected to Fairhope, Weeks Bay, Perdido Bay. Sedimentation a problem. Water depths decreased from 30 feet to 10 feet over the past 40 years.
Local Government	Concerned with what was happening up stream of the Gulf. How can we keep it from getting into the gulf in the first place? What health issues are associated with what comes down stream into the gulf? Need to clean up contaminants up stream.
Local Government	Need to fix storm water.
Local Government	What health related issues are associated with small water body quality?
Local Government	Conflict of information. Dauphin Island, Orange Beach-engineered beaches-restoring the beach. At the same time a commitment to dredge the pass, wanted to beneficially use sand. Dredge is Corps, renourishment is FEMA. Could not use dredged material beneficially.



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Local Government	Concerned about not being able to use dredged materials because FEMA and Army Corps of Engineers could not work together to streamline permitting and other barriers. How can we work to untie federal knots to make things move more smoothly? Federal barriers seem to be more difficult than state government.
Local Government	There is dialogue at the state level: Montgomery is reachable. Difficulty is not at the state level. It is harder to work with local governments than it is working with Federal government. If we could handle locally we could move mountains.
Local Government	Looking at the voting base rather than the needs causes problems. Politics is the problem.
Local Government	May have to move to Mobile River (waste water treatment). Very expensive. May have to bond. Has 60 days to give board a plan. What is more economical, staying at 3Mile Creek, or moving to Mobile River? Lack information/cooperation from EPA and ADEM
Local Government	Little cities not included in planning, don't have the equipment to do what we need.
Local Government	Is looking at what worked based upon politics or actual priorities?
Local Government	Waste water treatment should be part of the restoration process/restoration plan. Get septic tanks off line and use proper sewerage treatment.



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Local Government	Beach renourishment: Concerns about the quality of sand in federal waters, and the cost of getting sand for beach renourishment. Were in line to do a big project, source of white sand previously from state waters now must go into federal waters due to DWH Spill. Will be more expensive.
Local Government	Needs consensus, definitive rules for engineered beaches. Rules vary across federal agencies and conflict with each other. Concerned with the inconsistencies of the rules for bring new sand to the beaches. Would like the Task Force to help with aligning all of the agencies so that the permitting process can be streamlined and ensure a quality product.
Local Government	Beach loss due to man-made cut in Dauphin Island water bottoms by oil industry. Has caused island to have excessive erosion. Need a nexus between MMS and Dauphin Island Beach.
Local Government	Business are impacted, need to be more resilient. People are stressed due to the economy, which is basically tourist based.
Local Government	Major obstacle-President needs to look from inside the trenches out and cut the gravy, such as Montgomery. Baldwin and Mobile counties could be another state based upon how Montgomery treats them. If the money goes through Montgomery, they will take their cut and not send it where it is needed. The gulf counties have been financing the State for many years. Growth significant here. Tourism a major industry. We are in the fast lane. Fear we will get 50% or less of money sent from Washington.

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Local Government	Labor and business overhead costs similar, around 30%. Outcome: Like to see 100% go to local government, 90% infrastructure/10% administration. Use on infrastructure and things our kids will have to deal with.
Local Government	Need to direct funds to the right place.
Local Government	Involve mayors, counties, those in the 'heat of the battle'. Need to use those who do this every day.
Local Government	Insurance is killing the economy. Concerned about the costs of insurance and how that is hindering restoration and recovery. The Task Force needs to address why insurance costs so much.
Local Government	Louisiana seemed to be prepared on what they needed: they focused on wetland loss and the Mississippi River delta at New Orleans Task Force meeting. Alabama is addressing more at the local level, how the money is to be spent. Should we be looking more at the big issues at the State level?
Federal government	Need to come together and have a unified voice. Problems right here with this group in not having a unified voice. Many of these issues are administrative, not restoration. We need to have a unified message for the State. This must be clearly defined and finite.
Local Government	Louisiana is a machine with decades of planning experience and getting and using federal dollars. Alabama wants to level the playing field, ex Roadmap planning.



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Local Government	Water treatment is not unique here. Problem is everywhere. Treatment infrastructure aging and failing. Storm drain water hard to deal with. We need to focus at the bottom, the infrastructure.
Local Government	We have a significant role with numerous programs. Will take the message that counties need assistance.
Local Government	Success is when the waters are clean, good for drinking, usable recreationally for families
Local Government	Success is having no impaired water bodies - no increase in impaired streams, impaired streams removed from list.
Local Government	People don't trust the government. If source of water is clean, the Gulf will be clean.
Local Government	Success is healthier communities. Contaminants in Gulf effect our health.
Local Government	Alabama and Florida are more aligned than other states. Louisiana uses their representatives more wisely than the other states do. Other states needed to use more influence to press federal reps to push their needs.
Local Government	Need report cards to show what progress was being made.
Local Government	Need a system that can be measured so that we can see what progress was being made.



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Local Government	Concerned about what the northern Alabama counties are sending down both in the waterways and in the air that has an effect on the local residents in lower counties. Houston is affecting our air quality. If we get rid of all cars, would not help.
Local Government	Must keep the public informed so they can get involved. Public education is huge.
Local Government	Campaign to raise public awareness: the Indian with the tear worked great. Get people emotionally involved.
Local Government	Concerns about the funds going through the wrong agencies. Need to keep funds going to the individuals that really need it. Resources should be dispatched to the intended beneficiary.
Local Government	Concerned with funding: who was going to pay for all of these things? Individuals locally did not want to pay for all of these things to be done.
Local Government	Concerned that the testing process is not being done properly and specifically is not being done in the proper places.
Local Government	Need to use the latest social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to get all the information out to the people.
Local Government	We need an Economic Recovery Task Force created with same focus as the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force