



THE CONVEYANCE

www.restoreorretreat.org

Five Years and Counting

Restore or Retreat has grown from a small group of local residents concerned about the impacts of coastal erosion in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins to a regional advocacy group dedicated to implementing an effective, long-term, restoration plan for the region.

When lifelong Lafourche Parish resident Alex Plaisance first saw Dr. Woody Gagliano present his concept of creating a third branch of the Mississippi River to return freshwater and sediment to the deteriorating wetlands of the Barataria and Terrebonne estuary, he was hooked. "I knew this was our best shot to not only rebuild our coastal wetlands, but most importantly, to sustain the delta," Plaisance explains.

One could say that Dr. Gagliano's presentation in 1998 at the Larose Civic Center, sponsored by the Legislative Support Group, was the seed from which Restore or Retreat (ROR) grew, and for the past five years, has flourished.

Following this pivotal Third Delta Conveyance Channel (TDCC) presentation, Plaisance and other local residents and businesspeople, including Dr. Gagliano himself, organized themselves into a task force to determine how best to move this TDCC idea forward. By May 2005, the group was incorporated into ROR, a coastal advocacy group focused on the long-term sustainability of

the Barataria and Terrebonne basins through the implementation of aggressive, long-term restoration projects.

"The name of our group really sums up the reality we face here in Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes," says Charlotte Bollinger, a founding Executive Committee member of ROR. "If we don't do something big and do it soon, we will all be retreating from these coastal communities that are not only home to us, but a wealth of resources to our entire nation."

Now entering its sixth year, ROR membership has grown to more than 250 individuals and businesses, the organization successfully won approval for \$1 million in state funding for an ongoing preliminary TDCC feasibility study, ROR is widely recognized as an active player in Louisiana's coastal restoration planning, and most importantly, more and more people are aware of the plight of our coastal region and the TDCC solution.

Thank you for your continued support!

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Simone Theriot
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STATE, PARISHES BEGIN PLANNING FOR COASTAL DEDICATION OF ENERGY BILL FUNDS

Within days of President Bush's signing of a federal Energy Bill allocating \$540 million in coastal impact assistance for Louisiana over four years, state and local leaders were beginning to plan how to use the revenue most effectively for restoration efforts.

"This is a big step toward starting to deal with Louisiana's coastal land loss problem," says Windell Curole, Director of the South Lafourche Levee District. "We cannot afford to use this money for anything but projects that directly protect our coast and coastal infrastructure."

Louisiana's share of the total \$5 billion in coastal impact assistance distributed to all coastal oil-and gas-producing coastal states includes targeted allocations for each coastal parish. Lafourche, for example, will receive \$9.76 million

from 2007-2010, Terrebonne will receive \$12.86 million, and Orleans and Jefferson will receive \$16.5 million and 17.1 million respectively.

"On the state level, we are looking at ways to maximize our restoration opportunities before the first check arrives from Washington next fall," explains Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Angelle. He says he

plans to meet with coastal parish officials soon to discuss a project strategy.

According to Curole, Lafourche Parish officials have already begun talking with

other coastal parishes that are members of the Parishes Against Coastal Erosion (PACE) group about pooling parish allocations to implement basin-wide projects. For instance, he says, a

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"We don't want to let our citizens down, nor our congressional leaders who went to bat for us on Capitol Hill."

Leslie Suazo, Terrebonne Parish



From the Executive Director... Simone Theriot

For years, and especially over the past few months, Louisiana's future has been in the hands of federal lawmakers, many of whom have never visited the economically and ecologically rich Louisiana coast.

Despite so many hurdles, the Louisiana delegation came together and prevailed with the passage of the OCS revenue sharing amendment in the Energy Bill. The state and local state delegation also played a critical role by being proactive in ensuring the dollars given to Louisiana from the OCS funds would be dedicated solely to restoration, which sent a clear message to Washington about the state's overwhelming support and the critical need for federal help. With this, Louisiana can be assured the message of "Restore or Retreat" is being heard, but we cannot stop here.

We must think well into the future with long term solutions, so that we are not forced to "Restore AND Still Retreat."

Louisiana must prove they are spending their dollars wisely, because all eyes, including the most vocal critics and the White House, will be watching. We must move swiftly to continue efficient and effective restoration efforts and studies on all levels, including long term, systemic solutions such as the Third Delta Conveyance Channel. With the positive momentum gained, we must think well into the future with long term solutions, so that we are not forced to "Restore AND Still Retreat."

It's Barnstorming Time Again!

Join Restore or Retreat in celebrating its first 5 years of coastal restoration advocacy during the 4th annual

"Save Our Coast"

13,

be the

music, along with

and fun door prizes.

Reservation forms are included in

this issue of "The Conveyance," and

reservations may also be made on our

web site, www.restoreorretreat.org, or

by calling our office at 985-448-4485.

Due to Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, Barnstorming plans are currently on hold. We'll keep you posted!



ROR President Alexis Plaisance and Treasurer Robert Naquin are pictured left at ROR's Business Card Social at Port Fourchon on June 23.

On the Road with ROR

ROR Executive Director Simone Theriot is flanked by ROR supporters during the Bayou Region Day social at the Governor's Mansion in May.



R E S T O R E O R R E T R E A T :

May 2000

ROR is incorporated as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation and headquartered within the SLEC offices at Nicholls State University. Alex Plaisance, Jr. is elected President.

September 2001

Lori Szczecina LeBlanc becomes ROR's first Executive Director. She ramps up efforts to get the Third Delta (TDCC) project moving on the state and national levels, and works to increase membership in and awareness of the organization.

December 2000

Founding member Charlotte Bollinger introduces area business people to ROR during a holiday social at her home. Several pledge their support.



October 2001

Over 40 businesses and individuals have joined ROR, including Platinum Members Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Lafourche Parish Council, Lafourche Realty and Entergy.



May 2002

ROR holds its first annual membership social and fundraiser at the Bollinger Barn, with the theme "May Day for the Coast," in keeping with the month of May's designation as state Wetlands Month. The successful annual fundraiser would later be named "Barnstorming Party to Save Our Coast."



Workshop Kicks Off Second Phase of Third Delta Study

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and contractor CH2M Hill conducted a stakeholders workshop May 11-12 at Nicholls State University to discuss strategy for the second phase of the state-sponsored Third Delta Conveyance Channel (TDCC) reconnaissance-level feasibility study. Attendees representing ROR, state and federal agencies, engineering contractors and other groups brainstormed project alternatives that would provide the same benefits as the proposed TDCC.

According to DNR Project Manager Bob Roberts, the project team is now working on a general assessment of each identified alternative, including environmental and engineering considerations. Conclusions drawn from this phase will provide a strategic path for transitioning into a full federal feasibility study, he says.

The first phase of the TDCC state study was completed in May of 2004 and concluded that Third Delta would build more land faster than the Wax Lake Outlet, a model diversion project.

Parishes Make Plans

- Continued on from page 1 -

project like the Caminada Headland shoreline restoration would provide beneficial protection to Lafourche, Jefferson and Orleans parishes. Likewise, Lafourche Parish anticipates working with Terrebonne Parish to implement projects to benefit the western edge of the Barataria and Terrebonne basins, Curole notes.

“Our main concern is using this money as much as possible toward large, worthwhile and lasting projects that will benefit our entire estuary, which is losing land faster than anywhere else in the world,” he adds.

His sentiment is shared with Terrebonne Parish Coastal Restoration Director Leslie Suazo.

“Everyone in parish government has an extreme sense of responsibility on this issue. We don’t want to let our citizens down, nor our congressional leaders who went to bat for us on Capitol Hill,” she says. “This is a great chance for state and local government to prove that we can begin to effectively address our coastal erosion crisis. I think we all want to do what we can to implement systemic, long-term solutions.”

One Terrebonne basin project championed by Sen. Reggie Dupre involves construction of a lock on the Houma Navigational Canal, which would block the northward movement of saltwater into the basin and the contamination of freshwater drinking supply in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes.

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To have a ROR representative speak to your school or civic group, contact Simone Theriot at (985) 448-4485.

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THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

January 2003

DNR Secretary Jack Caldwell commits \$1 million to a state-initiated reconnaissance-level study of the TDCC.

November 2004

A federal TDCC feasibility study is included in a list of recommended studies for long-term projects in the Louisiana Coastal Area final report to Congress.

January 2005

Simone Theriot is introduced as ROR's new Executive Director during the group's annual luncheon featuring DNR Secretary Scott Angelle. Membership is up to over 250 individual and corporate members.



May 2005

ROR marks its 5-year anniversary as DNR begins Phase II of the state TDCC feasibility study.

June 2004

First phase of the state TDCC feasibility study is released.

*If you have any
comments or questions,
please contact our office at:*

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www.restoreorretreat.org

**From the President...
Alex Plaisance, Jr.**

After years of waiting and months of hoping, the U.S. Congress gave us all a pleasant surprise this summer before heading off to vacation—\$540 million over four years dedicated solely and specifically to coastal restoration.

It's a far cry from the \$14 billion plus that we know our state needs to truly reverse our land loss trend, but it is a start nonetheless, a start that we must not waste.

As you read in this issue of "The Conveyance," parish and state leaders are working on plans to spend Energy Bill appropriations in the most effective means possible by targeting systemic approaches to long-term restoration. In the meantime, Restore or Retreat has and will continue to meet with state leaders and parish officials in the Barataria and Terrebonne estuary to determine if any of these funds can be used toward the Third Delta Conveyance Channel project.

We'll keep you posted!



**MAKING YOUR
TAX- DEDUCTIBLE
DONATION IS JUST A
CLICK AWAY!**

**VISIT US ON-LINE AT
www.restoreorretreat.org**

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Mission Statement

Realizing that the Barataria and Terrebonne basins are the two most rapidly eroding estuaries on the earth, and understanding that an economic and ecological travesty is occurring, the concerned members of Restore or Retreat seek to identify, expedite and aggressively engage in solutions to urgently achieve comprehensive coastal restoration.

BECOME A MEMBER/VOLUNTEER

Contributions to this organization are **tax deductible**. Restore or Retreat is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tax identification number is 72-1474850. Please make checks payable to Restore or Retreat, Inc.

Levels of Support:

Platinum	\$10,000 or greater	Bronze	\$1,000 to \$2,499
Gold	\$5,000 to \$9,999	Associate	\$100 to \$999
Silver	\$2,500 to \$4,999	Friend	\$10 to \$99

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I would like to support ROR, my donation is enclosed.

I would like to be an active volunteer, please contact me.

Return form to: ROR, P.O. Box 2048-NSU, Thibodaux, LA 70310