

Mon Louis Island Report #4

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

March 31, 2012



Since you last received a Mon Louis Island Report, a team of six property owners along a 667-foot length of northern Mon Louis Island has committed to designing and installing a living shoreline – funded by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Programs – that will:

- 1) attenuate the wave energy from prevailing winds and ship wakes that erode the shoreline and degrade intertidal habitat and stay in place under extreme wave climates
- 2) provide a quarter acre of oyster reef and almost half an acre of salt marsh habitat to support important commercial and recreational species of fish and shellfish,
- 3) use cutting edge living shorelines technologies to add ecological, aesthetic and recreational value to this impacted intertidal zone as a viable alternative to bulkheading/shoreline armoring
- 4) provide the State of Alabama with an opportunity to demonstrate how living shorelines projects can be implemented under existing regulation and what benefits they provide
- 5) develop consensus on issues of concern to the mutual benefit of all parties and a legal instrument to protect these benefits into perpetuity

Status of Activities through March 31, 2012

- A Request for Proposals was issued on September 30, 2011 to qualified and experienced engineering firms to generate detailed designs and specifications for installation of a living shoreline along the western shore of Mobile Bay
- In November, 2011, property owners and others on a review panel interviewed three finalists and chose South Coast Engineers, Inc., a team that included Dr. Scott Douglass and Ms. Caren Reid Dixon, to design the project.
- Several meetings between Ms. Dixon (the project design lead), Dr. Douglass, the property owners, and Mobile Bay National Estuary Program staff were conducted to reach consensus on the design, materials, and specifications.
- In late March, 2012, property owners approved a 50% plan, which was also reviewed for quality assurance by Dr. Bret Webb of the University of South Alabama Civil Engineering Department.



Old fallen oak tree will become a part of the project design.

Next Steps:

On April 12, 2011, the 100% plan will be introduced at a public meeting at the St. Rose of Lima Parish Hall. This plan will include maps, note sheets, grading and site plans, wetland planting and native riparian buffer plans, cross section plans, structural notes, and draining and storm water management designs at a level appropriate for submittal to the Corps of Engineers and ADEM for permitting and adequately described for marine contractor construction bids.

We are ready to present...

***The Final Plan for
A Living Shoreline on Mon Louis Island***



Mon Louis Island Community Meeting

Thursday, April 12, 2012

St. Rose of Lima Parish Hall

2951 Durette Avenue

6 until 8 p.m.

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program and Dr. Scott Douglass and Caren Reid Dixon of South Coast Engineers, Inc. will present the final engineering plan for a collaborative living shoreline along Mon Louis Island's north shore.

Refreshments will be served.