

## **Delta Discussion Group: Emerging Local, State, Regional & Federal Priorities**

Tuesday 25 January 2011 | Noon - 4 PM  
First Grace Fellowship Hall  
3401 Canal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana

The Delta Discussion Group briefing was convened by The Urban Conservancy and the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy. Since May 2010, the Delta Discussion Group has served as a participatory forum for a diverse group of scientists, academics, environmentalists, industry experts, artists, writers, NGOs, business owners and others in Southeast Louisiana affected by, documenting, and working to find long-term solutions to the BP drilling disaster, coastal restoration, and a sustainable Gulf ecosystem. A summary report of the DDG kick-off convening is located here: <http://www.urbanconservancy.org/issues/bp-drilling-disaster>.

See the list of participants attached at the end of this report.

### Introduction

The purpose of the Delta Discussion Group is to brief across sectors on strategic responses to the BP drilling disaster, and options for long-term coastal protection and restoration and a sustainable Gulf ecosystem. Topics covered today include: health, food safety and testing, the National Resource Damage Assessment process, the BP claims process, the Clean Water Act fund, the state's Master Plan, and the Gulf Coast Community Resiliency Task Force.

### Health & Safety Concerns: Perception & Reality

- **Sal Sunseri**  
**Co-Owner, P&J Oysters Company**

*Sal Sunseri is one of the owners of P&J Oysters Company. It's role is not only as 135 year old, 5-generation business in New Orleans with a large economic role within the city, but it provides a critical coast-to-urban link in the regional economy.*

Oysters are very much affected by the spill especially because the species does not move. In addition to their historic and ecological importance, Louisiana is the number one producer of oysters in America; it has provided 45% of all oysters consumed by Americans. The fresh water diversions opened to keep the oil away from the wetlands had the negative side effect of killing growing areas for oysters. This year, oystermen anticipated a solid crop, which didn't happen because of this Disaster. Louisiana oystermen might not be able to expect a fair production until maybe September 2012.

Mr. Sunseri continues to eat oysters almost daily. He reports that the food from Louisiana water that goes through testing is safe and can be consumed both raw and cooked. However, the uncertain effects of the dispersants and the passage of time cause concern.

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### ***Comments***

Q, Are any oyster beds permanently off limits?

A, S. Sunseri- No, but our employees haven't shucked oysters since June 10th because areas of Bayou Barataria have been most affected. Our employees have not gathered enough oysters and we couldn't do any planting at all this year. Typically, farmers plant on private leases, but this year they could not. With many variables still unknown, farmers are concerned about the management of fisheries over years, how crop will come back, and how much money to invest. Though they have laid off 15 people and are short staffed, the P & J Oysters Company hopes to stay open for another 135 years.

Q, How will your company stay in business?

A, S. Sunseri- We buy oysters from Alabama and Texas (which is the currently most productive area), which will last for a while longer. Over the next couple years there should be some production in Louisiana's water. Currently, Mississippi is shut down and Florida is not a resource as their oysters were not quality. Prince Edward Island invited the Company to look at their product. One crucial variable for the oyster industry to assess is the demand of the public and of restaurants.

### **• Doug Daigle**

#### **Lower Mississippi River Sub-basin Committee on Gulf Hypoxia**

The annual hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico, located primarily off of Louisiana's coast, consists of very low oxygen levels in water caused by high nutrient levels coming down the Mississippi River. After the BP Oil Drilling Disaster (BPODD), people question what effects the oil might have on the hypoxic zone, especially whether it would cause the size of the hypoxic zone to increase.

At this point, the spill doesn't seem to have had a significant effect. The 2010 Hypoxic Zone was large, around 7,700 square miles (the record being 8,000 square miles in 2003), and it stretched further west in Texas than ever before. A large zone had been predicted, but the oil doesn't seem to have been a major influence. The oil was very mobile, and the Gulf very dynamic. Whether the oil caused other hypoxic events, especially at depth, is a different question.

The average size of the hypoxic zone is growing each year due to the lag in national policy and investment in mitigating the problem. In 2009, there was directed funding for the first time, with the US

Department of Agriculture's Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI). This was almost ten years after the first national Action Plan was signed. That Plan was premised on spending money on reducing the nutrient load in the Mississippi River Basin, but there was no such investment over the following eight years.

MRBI is a good step, but more will be needed. Gulf hypoxia is at the nexus of several national issues and trends: The expansion of ethanol production in the Mississippi River Basin has increased fertilizer use and runoff, which drives the hypoxic zone. EPA has raised standards of ethanol content in gas from 10% to 15%; which works at cross purposes with reducing Gulf hypoxia, just on a cause and effect basis. this, in turn, Daigle says, So action needs to be taken to mitigate that. It's also a reminder that biofuels are not completely environmentally benign.

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### ***Comments***

Q, Prior to oil spill, was hypoxia affecting the oyster industry?

A, D Daigle - The high nutrient load and level of freshwater can have different effects on oysters., who need water that's not too fresh or too salty. In the case of river diversions, scientists are trying to understand how much nitrogen marshes can take. Diversions will reduce the loading to the zone simply by taking water out of the main river channel, but what effects does it have where it goes? The river's nutrient load is far higher than it was when the coast was formed. The state has included coastal projects like diversions in its hypoxia strategy, but we need to remember that only a few projects are authorized and funded, so it's hard to strategize for the reduction of nutrients through the use of river diversions because we don't know how many will be built or when. We do know that we have a window to reduce nutrient loads upstream and thus mitigate any problematic effects of diversions.

Q, -In my opinion, the best way to achieve coastal restoration in Louisiana is by implementing smaller, strategically-placed freshwater diversions that mimic how it used to be. Although people want to see results right away without spending a lot of money, we need to begin the construction of costly river diversion programs in order to achieve the biggest long term impact. Smaller freshwater diversions, silt and barrier islands are the best for fisheries.

A, Doug Daigle - Before these diversions are built, though, we have a shrinking period of time to make reductions upstream—all along the Mississippi to its source in Minnesota—in the quantity of harmful nutrients dumped into the river primarily from farmland fertilizer runoff. The hypoxia problem can only be solved upstream.

Q, Is there a percent upon which most agree of how much hypoxia is caused by agriculture and by municipal systems?

A, Doug Daigle – About 70% agriculture, 30% municipal, all the way up to Minnesota.

A, Casey Roberts - Only the 30% from municipal wastewater is what we reduce legally; agricultural changes must be voluntary due to the failure in policy to regulate the industry.

### **• Casey Roberts**

#### **Gulf Restoration Network**

The Gulf Restoration Network (GRN) is currently monitoring health impacts of dispersants and oil debris while maintaining contact with other organizations testing health factors for people & seafood. The Louisiana Environmental Action Network has done blood testing and has found blood proving positive for hydrocarbons. The Louisiana Bucket Brigade has organized citizen surveys in South Louisiana recording symptoms. However, the long term impacts of oil spill cleanup has not been studied enough. We don't know when the long term study will be finished, and we don't know the potential and lingering effects from dispersants. As a member of a citizen advisory group on health concerns, GRN will participate in ensuring that "bad science" isn't used politically. GRN is worried that because BP is funding studies, the results could be dishonest. The citizens advisory group is government's effort to keep the process transparent. The group will have regular meetings, but there are no details yet.

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Studies have included oil spill workers & volunteers, but not community members with more passive roles, such as family or those in close contact with those who are active. The LA Bucket Brigade focuses on community members.

The Vietnamese Community in New Orleans East has started their own shrimp study to test for hydrocarbons. The government study was too small in scale. The National Resource Defense Committee (NRDC) & GRN are in communication with the FDA on the consumption rate measurements problematic in the study - the FDA grossly underestimated the average shrimp consumption for the Gulf Coast by using the CDC surveyed national average of four shrimp per week.

### ***Comments***

Q, Don't we have to make sure that health study results from the BPODD are differentiated from health problems caused by Katrina?

A, Casey Roberts - The CDC has done a separate study for mental health trends caused by Katrina. The exposures and health problems might be different between Katrina & the BPODD. The long term effects of exposure to mold should be considered when measuring health impacts this disaster.

Q, How do we make sure we are learning from this? Can we come up with a list of what we, the community, would like to learn, so we can then teach in the future?

A, The problem is that we don't have baseline data. We have gaps in information on ecological and social services.

A, My husband is doing blood testing all along the Gulf Coast and is having difficulty finding physicians and resources to continue blood tests. He has encountered serious medical conditions, such as a very ill child who played in a swimming pool nowhere near oil spill or cleanup process. We have a tribal member on council whose husband involved with cleanup is not ill, but she gained 'mysterious symptoms' possibly through contact with him by washing his clothes. We need to monitor the symptoms of those not just directly involved in cleanup, but also of family and people in surrounding areas. Some workers are afraid that if they speak out, they'll lose their job; they are concerned about the safety of seafood, but they don't want to express this vocally. There are lifelong fisherman who are not eating the seafood; that are catching things they are concerned about.

A, The sort of anecdotal information that communities can collect themselves—notes about area, dates and time, where they were fishing, describing symptoms if they get sick, etc is extremely valuable. Doesn't have to be elaborate.

Q, People living in the affected and surrounding areas are the ones most affected in this and other disasters. Exposure to contaminated boats can lead to respiratory problems. Many of these people lack health insurance. Is BP the sole funder of this study? How much say do they have in the study?

A, Casey Roberts - They are paying for it entirely, they have transferred money over to the CDC, who is working with the National Institute on Environmental Health Sciences.

Q, Did any health studies come out of Alaska? The study of the oil spill in Spain is more limited in terms of relevant data because of less contact with its coastline.

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A, Casey- The only long term health study on an oil spill, which lasted seven years, comes from Exxon. Neurological symptoms were the primary find of that study.

Q, Are there any independent university studies? Nobody is out there right now not influenced by oil industry and money that can come up with some reality?

A, Casey - The only independent funder is the National Science Foundation and it is slow going. The \$5 million in funding from BP is not transparent, and science is having trouble getting money from it. The influence of BP over academic research is unclear.

Comment - People who are impacted need health data urgently. When the BP Oil Commission presented its final recommendations in New Orleans last month, almost every person who stood up to comment from the audience were fisherman who felt that their health concerns were not acknowledged in the report. The Commission seemed receptive to their concerns

Comment - We must collect as much data as possible that shows where fishermen have been, what they were doing and what symptoms they had. We need to encourage community members to take data collecting on themselves when they go fishing and keep a journal. This data could prove to be more useful than blood tests.

Comment - The oil spill on coastal France and Britain, historically the third largest spill, took place in a deltaic environment that deeply affected fisheries. The study on this could provide worthwhile information on this type of data.

Q, - I have heard anecdotal reports that those who are apart of the cleanup process are afraid to speak out for fear that they will be fired.

A, Aaron - Academics who are not participating in the NRDA/BP study do not have access to the information in it.

### The BP Claims Process

- **Aaron Ahlquist, Attorney  
Herman, Herman, Katz and Cotlar, LLP**

The dominant question today is, how independent is Feinberg from the BP Claims Process? Feinberg was under contract to receive \$850,000 each month, which ended at the end of 2010, and we don't know how much compensation he is receiving now. Feinberg made statements to affected citizens that they do not need an attorney, resulting in a situation where claimants don't know what to do nor where to look for help and claims, in many cases, are denied. Five firms are set up in Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana to assist with the claims process, one of which had been contracted to defend BP in litigation.

A Harvard professor and an NYU professor wrote reports stating that no ethical violations were committed by Feinberg. Ahlquist wonders if there are professors who counter this report.

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The BP Claims Process has been less than 100% effective: a lack of transparency and no disclosure of information, inconsistency in how claims are handled by and within each firm, the denial of many claims. The decisions on compensation are made in Ohio, where employees are unresponsive and lack clarity on methodology. The language barrier weighs in as translating services are limited at best, especially for the Vietnamese population.

The BP Claims Facility has only paid out 35% of individual claims made; while \$3 billion was paid out, 65% have been denied. Emergency payments include compensation lasting for 6 months, often just over \$8,000 for individuals, even if valid documentation is provided requesting \$100,000. Many businesses were forced to shut down because they didn't receive funding. The vast majority that were denied provided hundreds of pages of documentation.

The deadline for Feinberg to reveal the methodology of the BP Claims Process is February 7, 2011. Currently, the public is outraged by Feinberg's lack of clarity. Problematic aspects of payment revolve around:

1. Final Payments: \$5,000 for individuals and \$20,000 business; recipients must release rights to press further charges. To settle in this way would release rights against not just BP but 120 other entities as well. This results in a waiver of one's right to recover any future funding, for example, if a future storm causes more oil to surface on one's property. People who are desperate will be drawn to this option.
2. The Full & Final Release - This requires the resubmission of hundreds of pages of documentation.
3. The interim claims process, which is like emergency payments, but lasts three months instead of six.

People will be facing taxes on claims money they received. The IRS will have call centers available to work on tax implications of claims.

The BP Claims Process, which will be open until 2013, is much faster than dealing with litigation. The first limitations trial, where liability issues for Transocean and others will be addressed, is set for 2012.

The system is inherently dysfunctional if people who deserve payment are denied. Claimants should utilize the interim claims that are required by OPA, where one doesn't have to waiver rights in future settlements. systemic messaging to use GCCF, not get a lawyer. Public education and outreach must maintain the sharing of information on long term issues, and demand to know where the oil is now and how citizens could be affected in the future.

### ***Comments***

I have heard from the Vietnamese fishing community that any documents submitted in their language, even as backup, do not count. Many believe that English counts as the only legal language.

This situation is reminiscent of confusion during and after Katrina. we need to make an impression on powers that be for better communication/outreach/public edu. The Small Business Association should

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designate certified lenders to process claims, so that claimants aren't required to go through Feinberg's process.

### The State Planning Process

- **Amy Clipp**  
**Office of Coastal Protection & Restoration**

*Amy is a writer contracted by the State of Louisiana to translate coastal science and planning into accessible and relevant information to the public.*

I work with the planning process to make it more open and transparent.

The 2007 Master Plan for the coast called to unify the building of levees and hurricane protection with wetlands restoration, but it did not lay out a plan of action, and only gave options to discuss. Now, we need a plan. We need to decide how to invest in coastal projects: structural protection, non-structural protection, and wetlands restoration.

The 2012 Master Plan includes:

1. new ways for the public to be involved;
2. an implementation plan that maps projects and shows specific outcomes of projects such as the reduction of flood risk, restoration of wetlands, schedules, and cost;
3. adaptive management; the plan must be able to be updated when science provides new data. The State is trying to become more flexible.

The 2012 Plan, to come out in January, calls for transparency and extensive modeling and the use of a prioritization tool, which won't give answers to problems, but will show the real world effects of projects, as well as what will happen if no action is taken. This tool has the capacity to examine the trade-offs of money and impacts of projects. Tools can be a means of transparency around value judgments, which is a worthwhile goal. The State staff will make presentations about these tools and process. The Framework Development Team (FDT) consists of 32 members, including nonprofits, scientists and academics, to act as the liaison with those not at table and will translate information out of meetings. The FDT will create a website with a blog and reports of technical teams.

Now is the time to get involved and provide input.

### ***Comments***

Comment - The CPRA is not good at identifying and incorporating public input. They should partner with local organizations in coastal parishes and decentralize their process to take the politics out. The process over time has become less public, although some critical decisions have been made by public support, such as the levees in Terrebonne Parish.

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Q, Will smaller freshwater diversions and barrier islands be considered for coastal restoration?

A, A. Clipp - The plan by law is must pursue restoration and protection that is sustainable. The use of natural cycles is a priority culled from twenty years of coastal planning. The River Use Work Group of FDT reviewed the plans of Coast 2050 and afterwards to offer options for diversions.

Q, Neither the river & water sediment budget nor the land use planning component called for by the 2007 Plan have been done. Where do these fit into the new process? Who is on the Framework Development Team? This information is not accessible.

A, A. Clipp - making a plan to address these needs, for example, the models used by the state estimate actual sediment levels. We are working to better define terms for non-structural measures; we know they include -zoning, but do they include buyouts? evacuation routes? Another question concerns how the state builds its own capacity in this area.

Comment - 1.) Currently, coastal restoration and coastal protection are considered two different things, the Army Corps doesn't consider the fact that protection naturally comes from wetlands. This should be considered in 2012 Plan, 2.) It's important to highlight that the National Academy of Science is studying how incorporate coastal ecosystems as protection, 3.) The Gulf Restoration Network reviews permits that the State rubber-stamps for the US Army Corps plans (404 permits). We need policy addressing the fact that taxpayers will be paying to build wetlands on property owned by industries. Shouldn't these industries have to give back in some way, such as filling in the 2,000 miles of oil and gas canals that should be closed?

Q, - How is the BPODD incorporated into prioritization for coastal restoration measures? Are the ongoing changes of ecosystem accounted in modeling and policy? For example, where people are making homes and the social, physical and economic make-up of the coast will be changing because of the BPODD.

Q - We need to address the causes of the sand berm fiasco after the BPODD: there was no bid and no public access. Science is excluded from executive decision to do projects that are motivated purely by political will. What will the planning team for the 2012 Master Plan do to make science driven decisions that are legally enforceable and exclude politics?

A, A. Clipp - This is an inherently political process because it affects peoples' lives, businesses, and communities, but the plan will be based on science. If powers in other realms make other decisions, we will see when and where those decisions are made. The team has 70 scientists (including Denise Reed, the head technical resource) for the modeling and prioritization tools.

### Louisiana Data-Sharing & Analysis Project

- **Ann Yoachim**  
**Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy**

*Ann works on data collection for the Department of Children & Family Services with the LSU Public Health and Tulane Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy.*

Ann worked as a team member of a data cataloguing effort conducted by the Louisiana Public Health Institute. This data cataloguing effort was a part of a comprehensive impact and needs assessment

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funded by the Department of Children & Family Services. The LSU School of Medicine and Tulane Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy also were and continue to be involved in data analysis and collection focused on mental health and resilience respectively.

The arm of the effort Ann was engaged in attempted to catalogue and identify gaps in the data being collected by local, state, federal agencies and non-profit social service providers. Results suggested that the data being collected by social services was not uniform and some services were too busy to collect data. Due to the litigious nature of the BP Spill, providers and agencies were often unwilling to provide their data. It is uncertain how the State is using or will use the information garnered by this effort.

### Mabus Plan & the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

- **Mark Hambrick**  
**OXFAM**

The Mabus Plan ensures community input and establishes a comprehensive gulf coast restoration plan that addresses the BPODD and the overarching long term problems.

The Plan came out last week in Mississippi but neither fisherman nor nonprofit leaders were on the committee to provide input for plan. The Mabus Plan released in September asked that 70% of the money BP owes go towards restoration and did not cover multiple strategies, such as protection from wind versus flood damage. The Gulf Restoration Task Force, which first met in November. will use the Mabus Plan to implement the strategy across the entire Gulf Coast. OXFAM is concerned that the Task Force staff consists of Region 4 EPA, which covers Mississippi, Alabama and Florida and lacks representation from Region 6.

No mandate exists to push the Plan to implementation. The Task Force lacks a budget, community input, and transparency crucial to the implementation process. The Task Force needs a citizen advisory council, yet not another meeting is set up. Currently each state is determining whether to divide funding evenly between states, or divide funding by the impact of the BPODD, which is difficult to determine.

### ***Comments***

The EPA/Gulf Restoration Task Force is coming to New Orleans in February 28, 2011.

The Plan is faulty, as it calls for 3 years of work to be executed in 10 months with no dedicated staff or budget. Diligence, suggestions and community organizations can provide the best strategies and input for this Plan. With gubernatorial election in October 2011 in Louisiana, Florida and Alabama, we will have new governors who have not yet participated in the planning efforts.

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### Natural Resources Damage Assessment Process Update

- **Mark Davis**  
**Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy**

For all the talk that the spill is over, for us, the spill has just begun as we are only beginning to assess and monitor the situation, and there is no centralized plan for addressing this situation.

According to the Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the parties at fault must still clean the spill, pay the economically injured, and aid impacted services and businesses (assess injured oyster beds, and provide other opportunities for work). The normal cap of damage coverage is \$75 million, but, as is with the case of BP, if woeful conduct is present, the damage cap is ignored.

Damage assessment is normally a survey of a confined population. Oil spills are normally measured in thousands of gallons, not millions, and in a contained environment without variations in depth in water as is the current case. Baseline information is lacking and not much data is useful in these deepwater environments. New questions are posted: are pools of oil we are finding now part of natural seeps or from the BPODD? Proving damage is difficult, especially in this case. While much is affected, the significance of damages is unclear.

The process for assessing damages is normally controlled by trustees - such as states, federal agencies such as NOAA and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and recognized tribal entities - and the responsible party. Normally, the public is not part of the lengthy process. This process could take years and is without precedent: five states are involved, the seafood impacted in one state could be caught in another state. We are learning how to tease out the problem. The normal agency in Louisiana that deals with oil spills is pushed out and the governor's office has stepped in.

The NRDA process is on a parallel track to the Mabus Plan. The State of Louisiana disclosed anticipation of a sequential decision making process - Davis has never heard of this done before. The logistics of this process is a work in progress demanding creativity, scrutiny, and great oversight. We're at the beginning of a very uncertain process that could lead to new policies, changes in industry, an increase damage caps, and could create a baseline for information to prove demonstrable damages; these changes affect everybody. Monitoring from a health standpoint will probably make a significant difference.

The people leading NRDA are inexperienced. NRDA dollars have to go to a NRDA plan, and the assessment of damages hasn't yet happened.

### ***Comments***

Q - Does NRDA have a mechanism in which the public may participate in their process?

A, NRDA held a public meeting at Tulane in November, only because they were asked to. We should not be passive on this process.

Q - Could NRDA use its money to restore wetlands?

A, Theoretically yes, but this is not the primary funding source for coastal restoration.

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Q - Is the Mabus Plan on coastal restoration technically driven or is it a political poker game like sand berms which was not informed by science?

A, Normally, trustees create one single claim or plan; there aren't many multi-jurisdiction spills. How the claim will be divided between the various jurisdictions will depend upon how we determine where harm was done versus harm felt, especially considering transient species.

Q - Does each state create its own assessment for impact?

A, NOAA wants the Gulf states to create one plan, so that 100% of the claim equals 100% of the damage. Louisiana has not yet suggested a percentage of the claim. Alabama suggests 28% for each state in order to move forward.

We must differentiate between NRDA money and Feinberg's impacts and individual claims money. While BP agreed to ignore cap, Transocean, Halliburton, etc. are going along with cap as long as they don't claim responsibility.

### Clean Water Act Fund Update

- **Casey Roberts**  
**Gulf Restoration Network**

The Mabus proposal is that 80% of the Clean Water Act fines (at \$1,000 per barrel of oil) are returned to the Gulf, though the percentage is to be determined because the federal government looks at fines collected by EPA as general treasury dollars. More likely this funding will arrive before NRDA funding. We need Gulf delegations supporting this; Mississippi and Alabama are resisting because they want to create a federal-private partnership to determine which states receive which funding. Money must be kept out of the Treasury and kept in Gulf. Rep. Scalise and Sen. Landrieu are dropping bills asking for this; Scalise in particular asks for ecosystem restoration. After Katrina, restoration funding went to economic drivers and not for restoration. The fines estimated to be at \$2 billion.

Determining the causation of the turtle kill has proven to be difficult. This will affect the amount of fines.

GRN is asking Rep. Scalise to help Louisiana gain support from Mississippi and Alabama delegations.

### Next Steps

Comments:

We should organize a symposium or other public forum marking one-year anniversary of the BPODD. Topics to maintain focus on include:

- the public health front (demonstrating and proving impacts chronic exposure to toxins, acute exposure)
- establishing useful baselines
- increased access to medical services for responders & families

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- increased access to information and funding
- future of BP commission recommendations, bringing the down repeatedly
- determine which forms of documentation are acceptable for making claims, they must make the process accessible to foreign language speakers
- Where does the \$850,000 paid each month from BP to Feinberg go?
- We need to determine how to participate in and learn more about the new state master plan.
- Who benefits from public versus private property rights in coastal zones?
- What is the fate of data collecting?
- The need to revitalize Louisiana's research & develop program for oil spills; a globalized standard of practice and education on this subject, that people the oil industry is obliged to fund.
- Economic impact of the moratorium: layoffs were predicted by GNO Inc. The Baton Rouge Area Foundation funding is for oil rig workers only. The impacts from the moratorium are blending into impacts from the BPODD. Money circulating in the economy gives the Federal government the perception that the Gulf Coast has recovered, yet long term effects are still unknown. From an average of 5-6 permits each month prior to the BPODD, only two permits have been given since.
- Alternative economic drivers like green/sustainability industry, the restoration economy and restoration workforce, and disaster mitigation industry.

Belinda Little-Wood: The disaster mitigation industry responding to recent Gulf Coastal oil spill and hurricanes is a money maker; we need to house the research and technology and develop the standards here. The Poland Avenue Navy Base (see [www.nsaeb.com](http://www.nsaeb.com)), the Naval Support Activity for the East Bank. The lot - 25 acres, 3 buildings with heliports on each, 1.5 million sq ft of space (constructed in 1919-1921 of hand-poured concrete) - has never flooded). It was built in preparation for WWI to store essential supplies and borders a railroad spur, the Mississippi River & the Industrial Canal. DOD & HUD just granted funding to gut these buildings and turn them into an international disaster management and recovery center. It will act as an emergency shelter facility for personnel and will house disaster response agencies. Plans also include a grocery store, pharmacy, medical clinic, and incubator space for non-profits involved with disaster preparation, mitigation & recovery.

### Other:

- Global Green will discuss the coastal plan in mid-April at their office in the Central Business District as part of a monthly forum series.
- GNO Inc. commissioned a study to be released in February 2011 on the green/sustainability industry
- Join Strategic Responses online discussion group to continue the conversation. Learn more at <http://groups.google.com/group/strategic-responses-to-bp-oil?hl=en>

For more information, contact:

Dana Eness, Executive Director  
The Urban Conservancy  
2803 St. Philip St.  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
[www.urbanconservancy.org](http://www.urbanconservancy.org)  
Tel. 504.561.7484 Fax 504.617.6618  
Twitter.com/urbanconserv

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January 25, 2011 Briefing List of Attendees

Name	Organization	Role
Aaron Ahlquist	Herman, Herman, Katz and Cotlar, LLP	BP Claims Process
Alex Kolker	LUMCON	
Ali Sickle	Global Green	
Amy Clipp	Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration	State Master Plan
Ann Yoachim	Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy	State Data Sharing
Anne Daniell	Loyola University	
Belinda Little-Wood	City of New Orleans	
Ben Weber	National Wildlife Foundation	
Beth Galante	Global Green	
Bonnie Canal	Assn of Contingency Planners	
Brenda Dardar Robichaux	Houma Nation	
Casey DeMoss Roberts	Gulf Restoration Network	Clean Water Act Funds
Dana Eness	The Urban Conservancy	Facilitator
Daphne Derven	Emeril Legasse Foundation	
David Aman	DocNO Productions	
Devin Lowell	Global Green	
Doug Daigle	Lower Mississippi River Sub-basin Committee on Gulf Hypoxia	Hypoxia in the Gulf
Eileen Fleming	journalist	
Hilarie Schackai	Longue Vue House & Gardens	

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Holly Scheib	Tulane University	
Joe Evans	Futureproof	
Julie Hernandez	Tulane Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences	
Lisa Kamuf		
Marco Cocito-Monoc	GNOF	
Mark Davis	Tulane Center for Water Resources Law and Policy	NRDA Process
Mark Hambrick	Oxfam	Mabus Plan
Marla Nelson	UNO Dept of Urban Planning	
Melissa Schigoda	GNOCDC	
Monika Gerhart	Campaign for Equity & Inclusion	
Monique Verdin	Photographer/Documenter	
Petra Marar	The Urban Conservancy/ Resiliency Conference	Notetaker
Richard Campanella	Tulane Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences	
Robin Barnes	GNO Inc - Vitality Project	
Sal Sunseri	P & J Oysters	Oyster Industry
Shawn Anglim	First Grace United Methodist	