

1 Introduced October 11, 2011, by  
2 Councilman Hicks

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4 **RESOLUTION R11-28**

5 A resolution respectfully requesting that the Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Task  
6 Force ("Task Force"), currently led by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and Executive Director  
7 John Hankinson, include in their strategic restoration strategy to be submitted to the President  
8 of the United States, the recognition that current land loss rates in Coastal Louisiana indicate  
9 that this a "crisis" and make specific recommendations on changes to current federal  
10 processes to streamline and improve the permitting process required for coastal restoration  
11 efforts.

12 WHEREAS, on June 1, 2011 the U.S. Geological Survey ("USGS") released its  
13 report "Land Area Change in Coastal Louisiana from 1932-2010" (USGS Report), which  
14 calculated and quantified net land loss and gain rates in coastal Louisiana for the past 80  
15 years; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the USGS Report determined that since 1932 coastal Louisiana has  
19 sustained a net land loss of over 1,883 square miles, which accounts for a loss of 25% of all  
20 land in the affected region, for which a copy of the land loss map is attached; and  
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23 WHEREAS, the USGS Report determined that trend analysis indicates that  
24 current wetland loss occurs at a rate of 16.57 square miles a year- equating to Louisiana's  
25 losing an area the size of a football field every hour; and  
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28 WHEREAS, although Louisiana contains approximately 40% of all coastal habitat  
29 in the lower 48 states, it accounts for 90% of coastal land loss; and  
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32 WHEREAS, the devastation and destruction caused by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita,  
33 Gustav, and Ike reinforced the tenet that a healthy, vibrant, and workable coast is necessary not  
34 just for our cultural and economic well being, but is a vital to our overall hurricane protection  
35 needs; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the largest environmental disaster in  
5 the United States, placed again the spotlight on Louisiana's coast and our impending land loss  
6 crisis; and  
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9 WHEREAS, as a result of the BP oil spill, President Barack Obama created the  
10 Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to create a federal restoration strategy to  
11 address the Gulf Coast's environmental issues, with particular emphasis being placed on  
12 Louisiana's coastal land loss crisis; and  
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15 WHEREAS, it is hoped and anticipated that 80% or more of Clean Water Act fines  
16 levied against BP and other responsible parties will be directed back to the areas affected to  
17 be used for coastal restoration and other initiatives, potentially billions of dollars for  
18 environmental restoration efforts; and  
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22 WHEREAS, even if the Task Force's recommendation to direct oil spill fines back  
23 to the Gulf Coast for restoration purposes is implemented, a vital component necessary for the  
24 efficient and timely restoration of our coast is the streamlining of the permitting process; and  
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27 WHEREAS, the current processes that dictate the permitting and approval of  
28 projects that are intended to restore and protect Louisiana's coast must follow the same  
29 arduous processes for a project that has no net benefit for coastal restoration/hurricane  
30 protection purposes; and  
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33 WHEREAS, even though there is agreement that Louisiana coastal land loss is  
34 at crisis levels, federal prioritization of coastal projects over other initiatives has not been fully  
35 realized.  
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4 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Slidell City Council respectfully  
5 requests that the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force recognize and make  
6 recommendations in their strategic restoration strategy on the following:  
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9 **Recognize** that current and historical land loss in coastal Louisiana confirms that  
10 Louisiana is in a crisis in which emergency action must be taken; and  
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12 **Recognize** that because Louisiana land loss rates are at crisis levels, the current  
13 emergency should be met with an appropriate level of federal response and addressed  
14 with a sense of urgency; and  
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17 **Recommend** in their strategic restoration strategy that the permitting and  
18 processing of coastal restoration projects be given a higher priority and fast-tracked by  
19 all participating agencies; and  
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22 **Recommend** in their strategic restoration strategy that appropriate resources and  
23 personnel be specifically allocated from each participating agency whose focus is to assist  
24 in the efficient processing of permits for coastal restoration projects; and  
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27 **Recommend** in their strategic restoration strategy that permitting processes for  
28 coastal restoration projects be granted "alternative arrangements" authorization, or similar  
29 processes, that was provided by the White House's Council on Environmental Quality to  
30 the Army Corps of Engineers for their work on the greater New Orleans' Hurricane and  
31 Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) projects, which allows for the fast  
32 track implementation and "mitigation after the fact".  
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4 I hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a  
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6 Resolution adopted by the Slidell City Council at a meeting held in the City Council  
7 Chambers, 2045 Second Street, Slidell, Louisiana, on Tuesday, October 11, 2011.  
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9 The aforesaid resolution, having been submitted to a vote, the vote therein  
10 was as follows:  
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12 YEAS: 8 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1  
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14 **ADOPTED** this 11th day of October, 2011.  
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16   
17 Landon Cusimano  
18 President of the Council  
19 Councilman-at-Large

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22 Thomas P. Reeves  
23 Council Administrator  
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# Plaquemines Parish Government

Parish President  
**Billy Nungesser**

**COASTAL  
ZONE MANAGEMENT**

8056 Hwy. 23, Suite 307  
Belle Chasse, Louisiana 70037  
(504) 297-5629  
Fax (504) 274-2463  
eMail: pjhahn@plaqueminesparish.com

**Council Members**

District 1 - Percy V Griffin  
District 2 - Keith Hinkley  
District 3 - Kirk Lepine  
District 4 - Dr. Stuart J Guey Jr.  
District 5 - Anthony Buras  
District 6 - Burghart Turner  
District 7 - Jeff Edgecombe  
District 8 - Byron Marinovich  
District 9 - Marla Cooper

June 20, 2011

My fellow Elected Officials of Coastal Louisiana,

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 the U.S. Geological Survey released its report "Land Area Change in Coastal Louisiana from 1932-2010" (USGS Report), which calculated and quantified net land loss and gain in coastal Louisiana for the past 80 years. This report certified that since 1932 coastal Louisiana has sustained a net land loss of over 1,883 square miles and determined that current wetland loss occurs at a rate of 16.57 square miles a year- equating to our losing an area the size of a football field every hour. Clearly, Louisiana coastal land loss is at a crisis level.

Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike reinforced the tenet that a healthy, vibrant, and workable coast is necessary not just for our cultural and economic well-being but is a vital component to our overall hurricane protection needs. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the largest environmental disaster in the United States, placed again the spotlight on Louisiana's coast and our impending land loss crisis.

These natural and man-made disasters have finally spurred the federal government's top leaders to focus their efforts on our plight that is a national issue. In response to the BP oil spill, President Obama created the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force ("Task Force") charged with the directive to create a federal response to address the Gulf Coast's environmental issues, with particular emphasis being placed on Louisiana's coastal land loss. By October 2011, the Task Force must present to the President a restoration strategy for the Gulf Coast.

It is hoped and anticipated that 80% or more of Clean Water Act fines levied against BP and other responsible parties will be directed back to the affected areas for coastal restoration and other initiatives- potentially billions of dollars for environmental restoration efforts. This recommendation has been iterated in the Mabus Report, the National Oil Spill Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Spill Report, and by numerous federal, state, and locally elected officials and NGOs. The Task Force should voice its support for the same.

But even if the Task Force's recommendation to direct oil spill fines back to the Gulf Coast is implemented, a vital component necessary for efficient and timely restoration is the streamlining of the permitting process. The current processes that dictate the permitting and approval of projects that are intended to restore and protect Louisiana's coast must follow the same arduous processes for a project that has no net benefit for coastal restoration. This must change. Without the resources and processes in place that can

effectively and efficiently implement restoration, even if we receive adequate funding to initiate restoration activities, current processes will bog us down and hamper true progress.

The attached resolution petitions the Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to include in their strategic restoration strategy the recognition that current land loss rates in coastal Louisiana indicate that we are in a "crisis" and make specific recommendations on changes to current federal processes to streamline and improve the permitting process required for coastal restoration efforts.

I respectfully request that this resolution be submitted and approved by your appropriate elected bodies so that we may show one unified voice in Washington D.C.

Sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billy Nungesser".

Billy Nungesser  
Plaquemines Parish President

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P.J. Hahn".

P.J. Hahn  
Director of Coastal Zone Management

Attachment