



P.O. Drawer 5548 • Thibodaux, LA 70302 • Telephone 985.446.8427
Thibodaux 800.834.8832 • Fax 985.446.8459 • Mathews 985.537.7603

Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 3:15 P.M.
Thursday, February 10, 2011

Lafourche Parish President Joins EPA's Gulf Coast Restoration Workgroup

Lafourche Parish President Charlotte Randolph has accepted an invitation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to become a member of its Local Government Advisory Committee's Gulf Coast Restoration Workgroup and participate in its inaugural meeting on February 17, 2011, in New Orleans.

President Randolph and other local government officials, including Councilwoman Arlanda Williams from Terrebonne Parish, will have the opportunity to provide input and recommendations on outreach and assistance for Gulf Coast communities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of restoration efforts as well as planning and restoration needs. The workgroup will engage local governments, stakeholders, communities, and the public throughout the Gulf Coast region and provide them an opportunity to share their needs and viewpoints on the issues the workgroup is considering.

"This invitation from the EPA is a sign that the federal government realizes the importance of our area and our parish, especially when it comes to the restoration of the Gulf Coast," said President Randolph. "I look forward to representing Lafourche Parish and making sure the Gulf region not only recovers from *this* disaster, but improves its chances of surviving any future disasters as well."

Among several items on Randolph's agenda is to push for the bulk of BP's fines to go toward funding Gulf restoration, as suggested in Navy Secretary Ray Mabus' report issued in September 2010. U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu has introduced legislation calling for no less than 80% of those fines to be dedicated to restoring the Gulf. Estimates show that the total fines from the oil spill could range from \$5 billion to \$21 billion.

The EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) is composed primarily of elected and appointed local officials. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, who also chairs the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, has charged the LGAC with engaging local officials on the Gulf Coast restoration effort. To this end, the LGAC formed the Gulf Coast Restoration Workgroup, whose charge is to engage local government officials in the Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration efforts and provide an opportunity for input to the Committee as it develops recommendations for the task force.

- ### -