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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

PRESS RELEASE

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Public Invited to Interviews of Potential *Comprehensive Plan* Consultants

Lafourche Parish Government has invited the public to attend the presentations and interviews of three professional consultant teams being considered to prepare the Parish's first-ever Comprehensive Plan. The interviews will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. in the Plantation Suite of the Donald G. Bollinger Memorial Student Union located on Leighton Drive on the campus of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux. Citizens in attendance will have the opportunity to give their feedback on which consultant team they feel best meets the needs of the parish.

“This is an opportunity for our community to come together and help shape the future of Lafourche Parish,” said Parish President Charlotte Randolph. “We want the public to be involved every step of the way, which starts with hiring a consulting firm to prepare the plan.”

The three finalists, which include AECOM of Atlanta, Brown & Danos of Baton Rouge, and Fregonese Associates of Portland, were selected from a total of six (6) planning firms that responded to a Request for Proposals.

Each firm will be given 30 minutes to present, followed by a 30-minute question and answer session. The public is encouraged to attend and share their opinion on the provided comment cards, which will be reviewed and taken into account by the Selection Committee prior to making a final recommendation.

Lafourche Parish Government and the Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX) began working toward a Comprehensive Plan for sustainable future growth and development earlier this year. A portion of the funding for this \$257,000 initiative was granted to CPEX by the Louisiana Office of Community Development under the Comprehensive Resiliency Program, while the Parish provided funding in the amount of \$50,000 as well as in-kind services valued at \$25,000.

A Comprehensive Plan is a forward-looking “blueprint” to help guide the manner in which a community accommodates development and redevelopment over a period of 10-20 years. Though facilitated by a professional planning team, the plan will be created, owned, and championed by community members. By outlining a vision for growth, this plan is intended to encourage investment from private and public sectors for business development, infrastructure, and redevelopment. Furthermore, the Comprehensive Plan will aid the Parish in becoming more sustainable and resilient as it responds to future natural and man-made disasters.

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