



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: 4:00 P.M.  
Thursday, September 23, 2010

### **NOAA Awards \$30.7 Million for West Belle Pass Restoration Project**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently announced the awarding of \$30.7 million in grant funding through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act for the West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration Project. The announcement was made last month in New Orleans by Gary Locke, Secretary of the Department of Commerce which oversees NOAA.

“This area has one of the most rapidly eroding shorelines in the nation,” said Lafourche Parish President Charlotte Randolph. “This was a much-needed project not only to help protect Port Fourchon and Bayou Lafourche, but this area helps protect all of Lafourche Parish from storms and hurricanes.”

The West Bell Pass Barrier Headland Restoration Project consists of re-establishing the eroded headland west of Belle Pass by creating new dunes and marshland to help prevent increased erosion expected in the coming years. In all, over 90 acres of beachfront will be created with a 6-foot dune elevation, and over 200 acres of marshland be created on the backside of the beachfront. The project will be located at the beachfront area to the west of Belle Pass, southwest of Port Fourchon, at the southeastern edge of Timbalier Bay.

This headland experiences an average shoreline retreat of 55 feet per year, with some areas experiencing loss of over 100 feet annually. This shoreline once spanned several miles but has been reduced to less than half its original length. In 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita removed most of the emergent headland and dunes west of the pass. Additionally, this stretch of land helped protect valuable marshland when it was impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill this summer with thick crude oil and tar balls washing up on the shoreline.

- ### -