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PRESS RELEASE

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President Randolph Presents to America's Wetland Blue Ribbon Leadership Forum

Lafourche Parish President Charlotte Randolph gave a presentation to a group of local, state federal and civic officials as part of the two day America's Wetland Blue Ribbon Leadership Forum held in Houma. President Randolph's presentation focused on the strategies, challenges and opportunities that face Lafourche Parish when completing coastal restoration projects.

"Lafourche Parish is at a unique position to have a significant amount of coastal restoration dollars allocated to our area", Randolph said. "The amount of money that could come our way as a result of the BP spill will change the landscape of the marshes and wetlands in Lafourche Parish." Several projects were touched on during the presentation including the Caminada Headlands Project which aims to restore the first 6 miles of Fourchon Beach from West Belle Pass to Bay Champagne, as well as two marsh creation projects completed in 2011 along the eastern and western edges of the South Lafourche Levee System.

"The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill was the nation's largest spill and caused a large economic and ecological impact to Lafourche Parish and the entire coast of Louisiana." Lafourche Coastal Zone Management Director Archie Chaisson, III said. "The projects highlighted in Mrs. Randolph's presentation represent a fraction of what Lafourche could see when the fines and penalties are levied against the responsible parties."

President Randolph also had the opportunity to meet personally with Mr. John Hankinson. Mr. Hankinson is the Executive Director for the Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, the agency charged with working with the five Gulf States and other federal agencies to dole out the fines and penalties from the Clean Water Act violations.

Residents can learn more about the America's Wetlands Forum by visiting their website at www.americaswetland.org

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