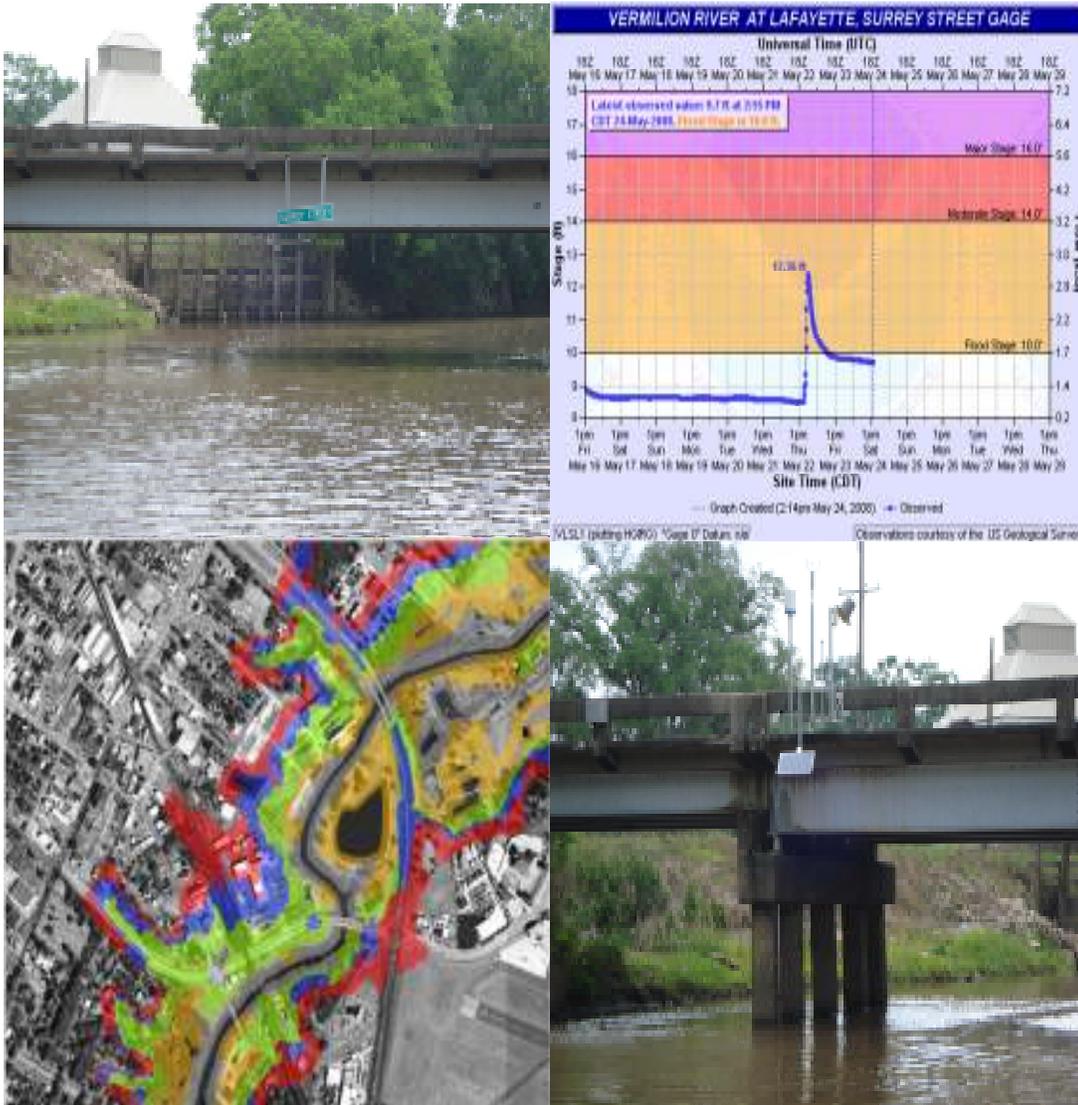




NOAA/National Weather Service's Bayou Vermilion River Conference



Program Guide



May 28th 2008
NOAA Office of Coastal Survey
Lafayette, Louisiana

Bayou Vermilion River Conference Agenda

- 9:00 – 9:10 am Welcome & Introduction
Andy Patrick/Tim Osborne
- 9:10 – 9:30 am Hurricane Season 2008 Preparedness
Roger Erickson (NOAA/NWS)
- 9:30 – 10:00 am History of the Bayou Vermilion District and Changes on the
Bayou over the Years
Cynthia Trahan / Paul LaHaye (Bayou Vermilion District)
- 10:00 – 10:20 am History of Flooding on the Vermilion
Rob Perillo (KATC)
- 10:20 – 10:30 am Break
- 10:30 – 10:50 am Research Projects on the Vermilion
Dr. Ehab Meselhe (Inland Water Science Center UL Lafayette)
- 10:50 – 11:20 am National Flood Insurance Community Rating System
Pam Mattingly (Calcasieu Parish)
- 11:20 – 11:50 am Flood Inundation Mapping
Ben Weiger Southern Region Hydrologic Services
Branch Chief (NOAA/NWS Southern Region)
- 11:50 – 12:50 pm Lunch
- 12:50 – 1:10 pm National Weather Service Forecasts/
Advance Hydrologic Prediction Service
Joe Rua/Jonathan Brazzell (NOAA/NWS)
- 1:10 – 1:30 pm Operational Modeling of Bayou Vermilion
Dave Ramirez/David Welch
(NOAA/NWS Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center)
- 1:30 – 1:45 pm Break
- 1:45 – 3:00 pm Panel Discussion – Q@A, Brainstorming, Action Items
- 3:00 pm – END



BVD HISTORY

Historically, the southern Mississippi Valley flourished with an array of Native American Cultures. Along with these Native Cultures, Caucasians immigrated to the area and settled adjacent to the Bayou Vermilion in a town called Vermilionville, now known as Lafayette. The bayous and swamps not only served as valuable means of transportation and commerce but as fisheries and food lots. With the introduction of the railroad system and finally the paved highway system the importance of the Bayou Vermilion slowly began to be neglected.

Through the years the value of the Bayou Vermilion has been undermined and Lafayette now prides itself in being one of the major oil production centers around the world. Along with a decreased sense of value, the water quality in the Bayou Vermilion slowly began to degrade. Consequently, in the 1980's the bayou became known as one of the most polluted rivers in the United States.

In 1984 the Bayou Vermilion District (BVD) was created in the hopes of improving the water quality and promoting recreational use of the bayou.

BVD is unique -- A parish wide agency funded solely by a millage tax from local residents dedicated to improving & maintaining an important natural asset.

In an effort to restore the water quality in the Bayou Vermilion, the BVD has focused on promoting community awareness through a sustained community education campaign.

How has BVD accomplished its goals since its inception?

Development

Since its inception, BayouV has undertaken several exciting projects including the Rotary Point Boat Launch, the North Launch, improvements to Beaver Park which include the Beaver Park Dock, a Southside Park off Robley Drive, and Vermilionville.

River Clean-up

BVD regularly patrols the Vermilion and its connecting waterways clearing it of trash and debris. BVD also has ongoing maintenance programs for clearing the Vermilion of fallen trees and up-rooted vegetation for safe navigation. In addition, we conduct community outreach and education to promote responsible, clean recreational use of the bayou and encourage conservation by the community.

Flood & Drainage

In a joint effort with the United States Corps of Engineers and the United States Geological Survey, four high-tech satellite river gages are installed at points along the Bayou to better monitor water levels.

A computer-based data gathering and mapping system has been installed to enable BVD to assist local agencies in rapidly evaluating incoming water levels and develop various flood-prone scenarios.

Education & Community Involvement

BVD conducts regular community outreach and education to keep residents up-to-date on district and river happenings and on what we all can do to reduce pollution and erosion. Information is disseminated through public service announcements and educational seminars are given to interested groups and organizations which stress various aspects of the bayou from erosion prevention to pollution in the river. BVD regularly conducts water sampling along the river for measurement of dissolve oxygen, pH, water temperature, and fecal coliform bacteria levels. BVD is encouraging increased usage of the Vermilion for recreational activities.

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Rob Perillo

Chief Meteorologist Rob Perillo is the weather anchor for KATC-TV3's Acadiana's NewsChannel at Five, Acadiana's NewsChannel at Six, and Acadiana's NewsChannel at Ten newscasts. With more than 20 years experience in forecasting Gulf Coast weather conditions, Rob is Acadiana's most trusted authority for weather.

Before joining KATC, Rob spent 15 years at KLFY-TV, where he served as the station's chief meteorologist. Prior to that, he was a marine and industrial meteorologist and aviation forecaster for Wilkens Weather Technologies, and Air Routing International in Houston, Texas. He began his career at the State University of New York Research Foundation and working as an emergency planning meteorologist for several nuclear power plants in Upstate New York.

Rob was awarded the American Meteorological Society Seal of Approval for television weathercasting in 1992. He is the recipient of more than a dozen Associated Press awards, including consecutive honors for "Best Weathercast" in Louisiana.

Rob earned his Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology with minors in physics and math from the State University of New York at Oswego . He and his wife live in Lafayette . They have two children, Olivia and Joseph.

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louisiana inland water studies

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[Dr. Ehab Meselhe](#) is a Director of the Center for Louisiana Inland Water Studies and an Associate Professor at the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. His research interests are environmental hydraulics and hydrology, monitoring and numerical modeling of natural water bodies and coastal wetlands, and contaminant and sediment transport. Dr. Meselhe has extensive experience in the area of computational hydraulics and fluid dynamics, river mechanics, and sediment transport. He is a chair of the Computational Hydraulic Technical Committee - the Environmental Water Resources Institute (EWRI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and an Associate Editor for the Journal of Hydraulic Research of the International Association of Hydraulic Research (IAHR).



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National Weather Service

NOAA's weather programs touch the lives of every American. Every day, decisions are made based on NOAA weather information – from the mundane "should I pack an umbrella today?" to the most critical and potentially life-saving.

With the mission to protect life and property, and enhance the United States' economy, NOAA's National Weather Service is the sole official voice of the U.S. Government for issuing warnings during life-threatening weather situations.

Covering the sun to the seas, the National Weather Service provides local and regional forecasts, and emergency alerts for severe storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, extreme heat, winter storms, fire threats, tsunamis and solar flares. From its national centers to its 122 Weather Forecast Offices and 13 River Forecast Centers, the National Weather Service is watching over the nation and your neighborhood.

Weather and climate sensitive industries in the United States account for about one-third of the Nation's Gross Domestic Product. Marine, aviation and space interests rely on National Weather Service information, alerts and warnings. In addition, NOAA has a responsibility to support the growth of an environmental information enterprise, a partnership between government, academia and the private sector.

These services are supported by organizations throughout NOAA, including NOAA's Satellite and Information Service, which maintains the satellites and data used in weather forecasting as well as historical climate records, and research and products provided by NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and the National Ocean Service to improve forecasting ability.

National Weather Service

Southern Region Headquarters

Hydrologic Services Branch

Ben Weiger Branch Chief

National Weather Service

Southern Region Headquarters

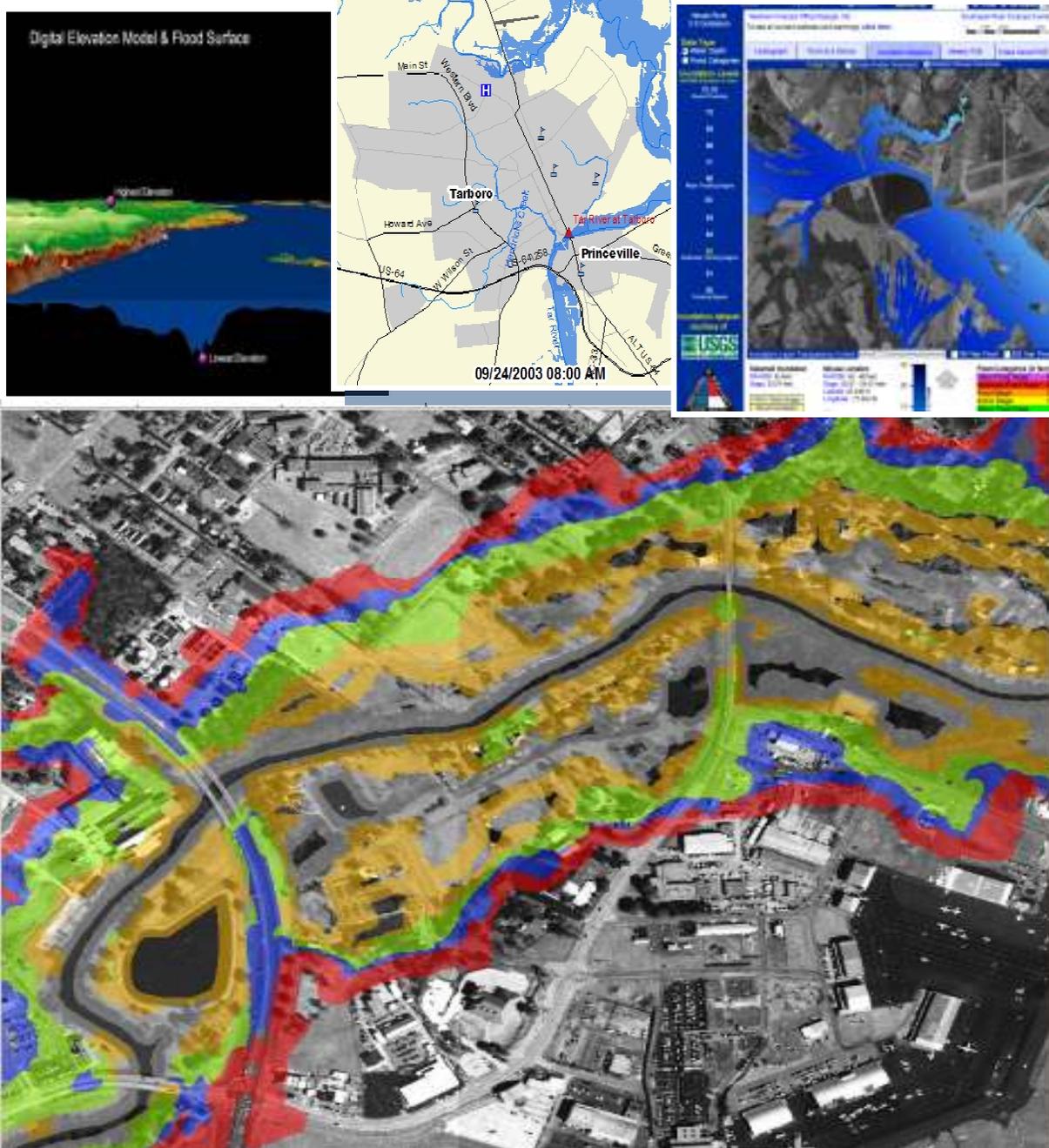
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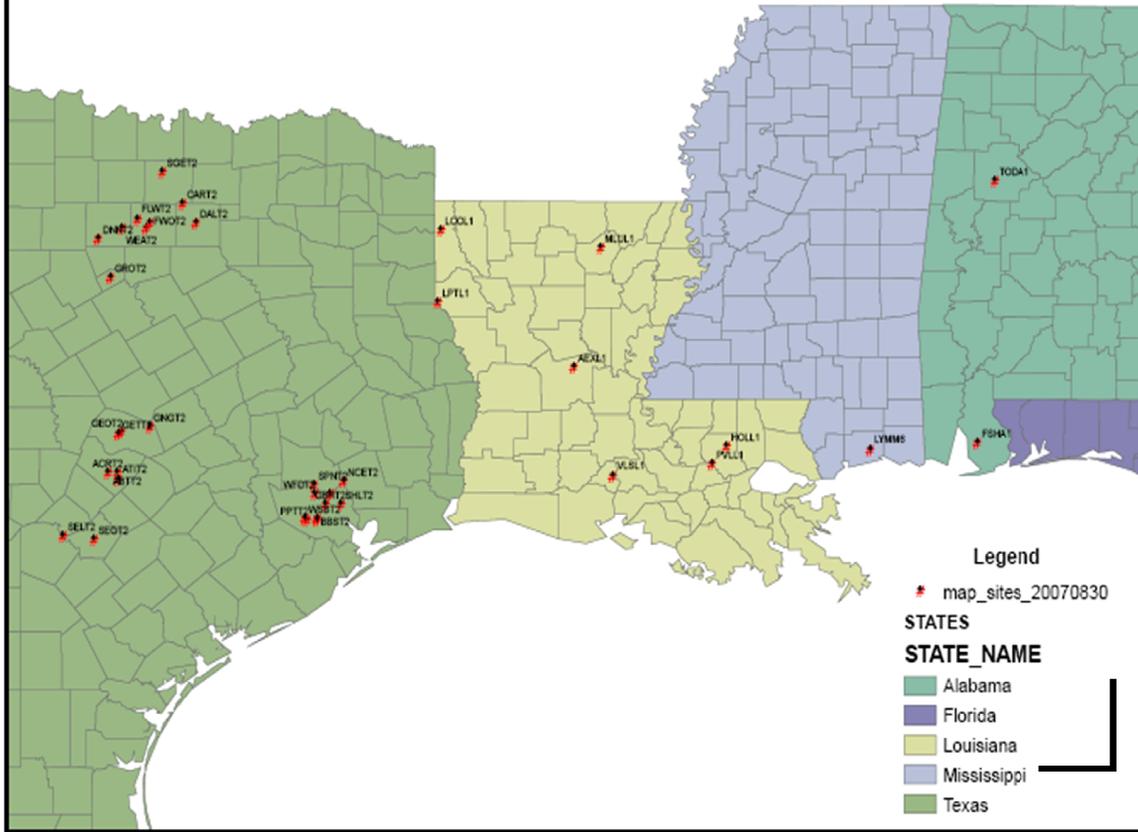
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Inundation Mapping



Forecast Points with Sufficient Data for Inundation Mapping



**For More Information on AHPS/Flood
Inundation Mapping**

www.weather.gov/ahps

Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service

Water Information for a Stronger and Safer America

Each year, floods kill more people than any other form of weather and cause damages in excess of \$5.2 billion. Three-quarters of all presidential declared disasters result from floods. At the same time, demands for water continue to increase, especially under drought conditions. Hydrologic forecasting is critical to public safety and the nation's economic security.

NOAA's Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) provides new forecast information depicting the magnitude and uncertainty of occurrence for hydrologic events—ranging from droughts to floods.

The following types of AHPS information are available on the web in a timely and user-friendly manner:

- Hydrographs displaying observed river levels for the past two days and forecasted levels out seven days.
- Probability forecasts with river level exceedence information for the next thirty days.
- Flood forecast maps showing locations forecasted to be inundated.

Benefits

AHPS provides water predictions for life decisions. According to the National Hydrologic Warning Council (2002) report, "Use and Benefits of the National Weather Service River and Flood Forecasts," AHPS — once fully implemented throughout the Nation — will provide \$766 million in economic benefits each year.

Flood Reduction (\$243 Million/Year):

AHPS provides better information to emergency managers and local officials, helping them make decisions such as:

- When to reinforce levees and to what level.
- When and where to evacuate people from potential flood areas.

Irrigation/Water Management (\$273

Million/Year): Under drought conditions, AHPS provides water managers with information for water allocation decisions, such as:

- Whether to release water from reservoirs in the spring or hold it for anticipated agricultural and industrial needs.

Navigation (\$169 Million/Year):

AHPS provides river information for navigation use such as:

- Establishing cargo weight limits and barge displacement for safe river navigation.
- Scheduling river transportation to take advantage of river flow conditions.

Hydroelectric (\$81 Million/Year):

AHPS provides better information to assist energy managers in making decisions such as:

- When to release water to optimize hydroelectric power generation.

Implementation

AHPS has been deployed in critical areas of the Upper Midwest, Northeast and Middle-Atlantic States since it first received funding in FY 2000. The next step is to accelerate implementation for these areas and expand to the South and West. NOAA's goal is to deploy AHPS Nationwide by 2012.

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Thank You

- Tim Osborne – NOAA Office of Coast Survey
- Patrick Fink – NOAA Office of Coast Survey

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- Lisa Bowers – NOAA National Weather Service
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- James Raley – NOAA National Weather Service

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The Zappe Family for the Donation of
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May 28th 2008

Lafayette, Louisiana