

# Press Release



## Plan to Raise Coastal Awareness

For Immediate Release – October 16, 2009

Plaquemines Parish leaders recently unveiled plans for the Lower Mississippi Wetlands Discovery Center. The goal of the Wetlands Discovery Center will be to educate the public on the lower Mississippi delta and explain its importance to not only Louisiana but the whole United States.

The Greater New Orleans Foundation provided a grant which covered the initial architectural renderings. The Parish Council dedicated land in West Pointe a la Hache for the project.

“The center will be built next to the fresh water siphon and just upriver from the West Point A La Hache Ferry. What better place is there to teach locals, tourists and future generations about the importance of the connection between the Mississippi River and its delta?” said Foster Creppel of the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee.



**PHOTO (left to right): Harvey Burns of Jankhe & Burns Architects, Bob Thomas of PABI, Stan Mathes Director of the Plaquemines Parish Economic Development & Tourism Department, Parish President Billy Nungesser, and Foster Creppel of the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee**

The next step is a feasibility study.

“The Council and Administration are in agreement that this project needs to move forward,” said Parish President Billy Nungesser. “The entire country needs to be educated about the wetlands, and the best place to start is in our own backyard.”

“This is a great project for the parish, now we need to find the right agreement so it’s a win-win for both sides—the community and the center,” said District 6 Council Member Burghart Turner. “Foster

Creppel and Stan Mathes have done an excellent job guiding the project.”

Parish leaders will also work on fundraising events, trying to secure sponsors and corporate donors. President Nungesser also said he was hoping to use Louisiana Recovery Authority funds and any leftover FEMA project money for the Coastal Center.