

Meeting Summary, JLUS Technical Committee Meeting

Plaquemines Parish Volunteer Fire Department, 104 New Orleans Street, Belle Chasse, LA
March 10, 2010, 6:00-8:00 pm

Attendees: Stan Mathes (PPG); Capt. Bill Snyder (CO); CDR Buck Dodick, Bruce Keller (NAS/JRB New Orleans); Mike Stack (DOTD District 02); Ed Durabb, Terri Wilkinson (JP); Alan Hero (Hero Lands); Regal Bisso (Plaquemines Parish Resident); Phil Brodt, Steve Gourgues (GCR); Ed Elam (BKI)

Overview/History of NAS/JRB Base – Capt. Snyder presented a power point slide show on the history and current missions attached to the NAS/JRB base in Belle Chasse. In this presentation, Capt. Snyder provided information on the landside activities, proposed base master plan and current missions attached to the installation. Included in this discussion was a review of the current residential and working population characteristics, projected/future population levels coming as result of consolidation activities with the Naval Base operations in Algiers and New Orleans, reassignment of operational elements from other bases to Belle Chasse, current employment numbers and economic impact of the base on the Parish and region. In this discussion, it was noted how the base's increased missions and population has resulted in the development of support facilities (for example, additional housing, schools, expanded PX).

- Introductions – Committee members were asked to introduce themselves and identify their organization/affiliation.
- JLUS Purpose and Need – One of the handouts for the group was a statement of the project's purpose and need. A review of this handout and the general parameters of the planning process and need for consensus in recommendations was lead by CDR Dodick.
- Role of the JLUS Technical Committee – CDR Dodick provided an overview of the JLUS process and the role of Plaquemines Parish in the development of the project and securing of the grant paying for the project. Included in this discussion was identification of the Technical Committee, which has 14 members invited and the Policy Committee, which has 12 members invited. These committees have members from the base, surrounding Parish governments, residents and key property owners. Community involvement beyond these committees was discussed as needing to occur and very important to the planning process. A description of the Technical Committee's role in the process was provided prior to the meeting and discussed as part of the review of the role of the Technical Committee.
- Identification of Issues Surrounding the NAS/JRB –A discussion of the issues surrounding the base, and to be addressed through the JLUS was lead by representatives of GCR, Plaquemines Parish and the Base. Handouts provided in advance of the meeting included an area land use map, 2001 noise contour map and list of tools available to help implement the JLUS. It was discussed that the AICUZ, completed prior to this project, will be used as input to the JLUS. The discussion centered on the following topics which appear to be major inputs to the JLUS project:

- Pending Roadway Construction – Peters Road Extension (from Jefferson Parish to LA 23) will increase transportation access to the west of the base. This will increase the development potential of the vacant lands adjacent to the corridor (and base). Also, the Parish is looking at extending Barriere Road from the current terminus west to meet Peters Road Extension.
- Vacant Lands Around Base – There is a substantial amount of vacant land to the north, west and south of the base. Land east of the base’s east-west runway, has been acquired through a cooperative endeavor with the Parish, Navy and Trust for Public Land. Plans for the development of this land were not disclosed or discussed. The highest and best use of these areas will be examined once Peters Road is constructed.
- Future Base Expansion/Land Use Needs – The review of base master plans and operations (Item #1) lead to a question concerning whether the base has a goal of being self sufficient – provide for all of its needs on the existing reservation, or whether some of this need may be transferred to lands outside of the base. If so, this could have an influence on how some of the currently vacant land adjacent to the base develops in the future. It was noted that the base uses many outside (off base) vendors and contractors for supplies and services. Also, the Base is dependent upon the local community to help meet many needs for the personnel stationed at the site.
It was also asked if the Base had any ideas on what it wanted to see in the land areas adjacent to the current facility. While there are ideas available, and some this is based upon the guidelines for compatible development suggested through the AICUZ process, the Base (or the JLUS) has no enforcement authority.
- Base Outreach with Local Community – There were questions about the Base’s current outreach with the community to explain its current missions, changes, etc. It was noted that the Base uses regular meetings with neighborhoods as an opportunity to review its operations and future plans. Such a meeting was held in the week prior to this meeting with the Stonebridge Neighborhood Association in Jefferson Parish. Also, the Base hosts a regular jobs fair with the Parish which allows local businesses a chance to find out how to obtain work through the Base.
- Coordination with the Parish’s Master Plan – There was discussion on how this process would fit in with the Parish’s Comprehensive Planning efforts. It was noted there would be coordination between the two, the comp plan consultant will soon begin work. Other planning issues which were discussed as part of this topic included the current planning approval process for zoning, permitting requirements in Plaquemines as regards FEMA requirements, the role of the planning commissions and parish councils in making decisions in both Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes.
- Levee/Storm Protection Coordination – The current project to construct the pump station at the confluence of the Harvey Canal and Intracoastal Waterway will include some of the vacant areas west of the base. But when all projects are complete, there will be a storm levee which extends around the base and across

LA 23 to the Mississippi River levee. This will place the Belle Chasse area inside of the Hurricane Protection Levee system. Also, there are several barrow pits within the vacant areas west of the base owned by Jefferson and Plaquemines Parish and used by the USCOE for the levee raising projects.

- Airspace obstructions – There was a brief discussion of the airspace coordination issues and need to make sure areas at the ends of the current runways do not have tall structures, monopoles or LED signs. An FAA air obstruction can help determine whether something would present an obstruction to runway operations.
- Issues and Tools List – The handouts included a list of issues and possible tools which could be used to help address the issues. Some combination of items from this list, or others from the group, could be within the final JLUS. The group was asked to identify any remaining issues or items of concern which should be considered as part of the JLUS planning process. The items identified included:
 - Flood Protection – development potential in Belle Chasse could be influenced by the final flood protection system. It was noted that at LA 23 the levee will have a swing gate which could be closed. This project will be complete by 2013.
 - Utilities – how much capacity remains within the sewer, water and drainage systems to support new development in the area? This needs to be considered.
 - Traffic Impacts – how many more cars (and trucks) will need to come through the area (via LA 23, Peters Road Extension or Barriere Road) as a result of development on-base as well as in areas off-base? There are few connections between Plaquemines and the adjacent parishes. For example, traffic backs up at LA 23 through Belle Chasse when the bridge is open. Questions arose about the status of Peters Road, which were discussed by GCR.

At the close of the meeting, the group was asked to review the items provided via email and help identify other issues which may have an impact on the JLUS process. Also, the group was asked to review the list of tools provided and to note how these would be applied through the JLUS process.

It was noted that a project website could be on-line soon and it would allow for posting of information on the project.

The next Technical Committee meeting was tentatively set for March 24, 2010, 6:00 pm at the Belle Chasse VFD. The meeting reminder will be sent to the group assembled (and invited) in advance.