

2015 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

by Reggie Dupre, Chair Legislative Committee

The main Legislative priority for CPRA and the Consortium for the 2015 State Legislative Session will be defensive rather than big new policy moves. Being this year is an election year for all Legislators and the fact that Gov Jindal is termed out, the main focus for 2015 is to protect the past reforms from those who wish to go backwards. Nevertheless, there are some bills and legislative instruments that we need to follow including:

- HCR #1 by Rep. Dove--This is the annual plan for CPRA. Last year, in 2014, was the first time there was an organized effort to kill the annual plan. With new leadership at CPRA, the Levee Districts must offer their complete support in passage of the last Annual Plan under Gov. Jindal.
- Allowing Political Subdivisions to use "Resources" for in house mitigation projects. Under current law, Political subdivisions can self-perform mitigation with public employees and equipment. Rep Dove will be filing a bill to change this to resources so that we can hire contractors' equipment.
- Local bill for N. Lafourche Levee District--Rep Dove will also be filing a local bill on behalf of North Lafourche Levee District to match the numbers of Commissioners to the number of Legislators providing nominations to the Governor.
- Change of "Per-Diem" for Levee District Commissioners--Rep Harrison will be filing a bill to change the per diem paid to levee district commissioners. This amount has not changed since the 1980's. The "Regular" Levee districts are limited to a max. of \$75 per meeting while the newer Levee Authorities earn about the same per diem as State Legislators. This will likely be the most controversial of the bills in 2015.

It seems important that the Legislative Committee of the Levee Dist Consortium, the CPRA, and the ALBL are all on the same page regarding issues before the State Legislature this year.