# GOAL: TO KEEP THE DRY LAND DRY AND THE WETLAND WET

When people hear of the money to be spent on coastal restoration, some will be thinking of profits to their companies, others of feeding their bureaucracies, and still others will think of political pay back. But the people who envision the comfort of seeing our coast like it was 50 years ago must find a way to administer and control the funds to achieve what the people of Louisiana need.

- Minimize funds to planners, bureaucracy researchers, and insure money is spent only on necessities.

- Protect our people from flooding while maximizing the flow of water and sediments to maximize the functions of our marshlands that provide protection for our homes' infrastructure and life style.

- Concentrate development in a designated area and discourage development in other areas because of the lack of flood protection.

- Maximize funds to contractors who will do the construction on items which will restore and maintain in a systemic method and non-systemic method, giving priority to systemic methods.

- Spend the money correctly with societal support necessary to provide meaningful projects.

- Take away the flood threat by using flood protection to allow the enhancement of wetland areas.

- Doing meaningful restoration will hurt some people; doing nothing will hurt everyone.

Through the last 30 years we have not had enough effective leadership from our state level officials to achieve meaningful solutions for land loss in Louisiana.

At this time there is enough knowledge in the general population that a strong statement from a strong state level official could coalesce this knowledge to develop the public support needed to solve our coastal loss problem.

Unless the ground is solid, all our endeavors and dreams will fail when we need them most.

We must fight this battle when we need to. Our platform is melting away and sometime in the near future the storm clouds will form and wash away all that we have known. We either battle wisely now, or retreat with regrets of what might have been.