



Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

**JUNE
2010**

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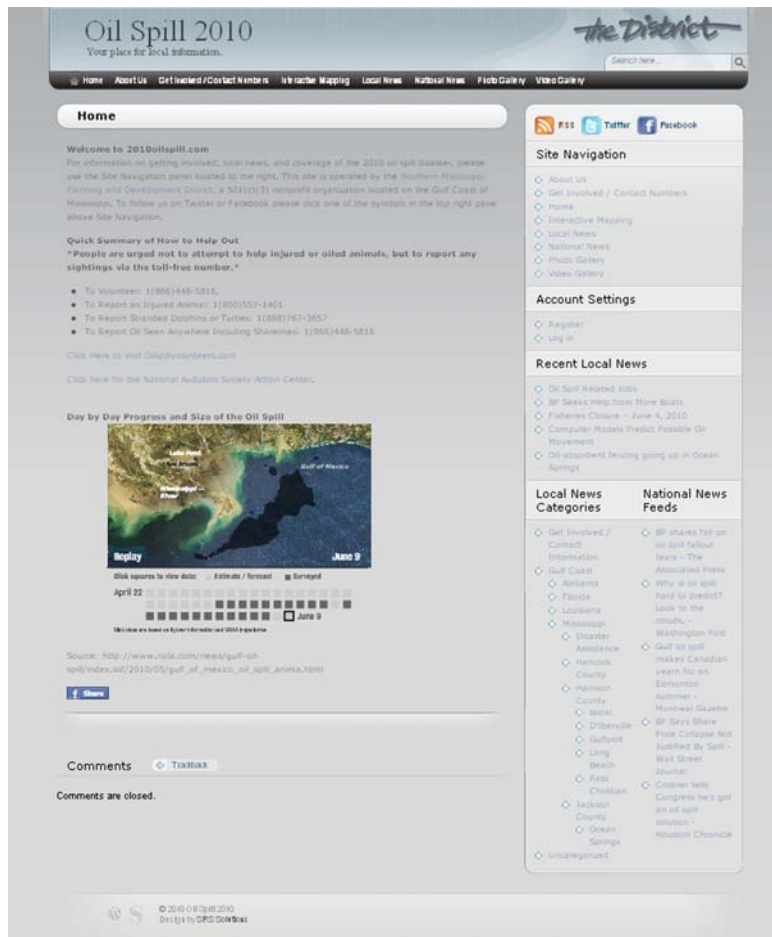
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SMPDD

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SMPDD Launches Oil Spill Website

GULFPORT – The Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District has launched a website to quickly disseminate information to locals directly affected by the 2010 oil spill. The site can be found at www.2010oilspill.com. The site provides national, regional and local newsfeeds as well as resources for volunteers, potential contractors and the public at large.



“About ten days after the explosion, we began to see an uptick in interest and concern. We knew that we had to find a way to get information out quickly to our member governments and this seemed to be the best avenue,” said Les Newcomb, Executive Director. The site went live by the afternoon of April 30th and is also accessible through Facebook and Twitter.

For more details on the site or to submit information, call Paul Barnes at 228-314-1455 or email pbarnes@smpdd.com.

You can also go to the website and click on the link for RSS, Facebook or Twitter to get the latest updates as they happen.



SAG Award

SMPDD has been awarded a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award by the Environmental Systems Resources Institute (ESRI). This international award recognizes GIS users who have contributed to the advancement of geospatial technologies. The GIS department has worked cooperatively to facilitate ways to involve GIS professionals and those interested in GIS development to make new connections and better communicate existing and future data development projects. Creating web applications and data sharing services, the District continues to lend support for GIS professional and technological advancement in its service area and the state of Mississippi. For examples of the web applications created please visit the map gallery at:

<http://gis.smpdd.com>.

COG Taxi Ordinance

For many years, SMPDD staff has facilitated the meetings of the Harrison County Council of Governments. The COG, as it is commonly called, was formed around 1992 so that local officials could address problems that transcend political boundaries and to work together to find appropriate solutions.

As the Coast has grown, so has the need for taxi and limousine services. Noting the vast inconsistencies across the jurisdictions in Harrison County for the motor-vehicle-for-hire industry, the COG sought to create a regulatory authority for this industry through local/private legislation. This session, the Mississippi Legislature passed *Harrison County Local and Private Bill-HB1737*, creating a **Harrison County Motor Vehicle for Hire Commission** to unify rules and regulations governing motor vehicles for hire.

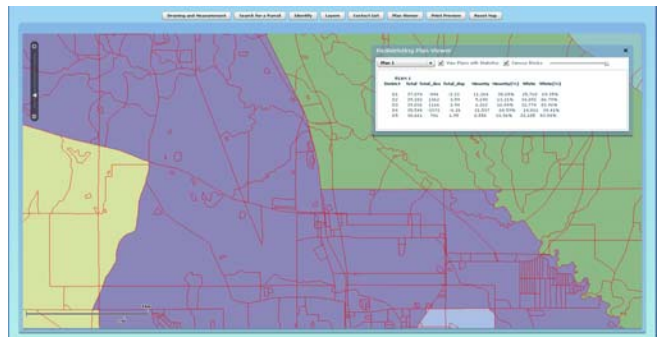
Local governments are currently in the process of appointing members to the Commission, as required

by the new legislation. The appointment of these Commissioners will be the first step toward achieving a first class, professional, efficient, safe, accessible, and affordable shared transport service for visitors and residents of Harrison County.

Redistricting Assistance

Mississippi is scheduled to receive 2010 Census data in February 2011 from the U.S. Census Bureau. Census data are used to define legislature districts, school district assignment areas and other important functional areas of government. Population shifts may require changes in your political boundaries. Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District has an excellent history working with counties and cities creating redistricting plans that follow U.S. Department of Justice regulations and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Redistricting support will be provided on a first come, first served basis. Contact Paul Barnes, GIS Manager, about the redistricting process and associated costs at pbarnes@smpdd.com or 228-314-1455.



E-mail Subscription

If you would like to receive your copy of SMPDD's Newsletter by e-mail, please email your request to: stirrell@smpdd.com. You will be put on our e-mail subscription list and your next issue will come to you by email.

Hazard Mitigation

FEMA/MEMA requires that Hazard Mitigation Plans be updated at least every five years, and several of our jurisdictions have Plans that are expiring within the next few months. Some others in the District will expire in 2011. The District offers assistance to area municipalities and counties for writing and updating Hazard Mitigation Plans. If you need an updated Plan, a new Plan, or want to check on the expiration date of your current Plan, please contact Beth Ousley in the SMPDD Planning Department at 228-314-1490.

Save the Date

Mississippi Economic Development Council's Summer Conference 2010 is scheduled for July 21st – 23rd at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi. For more information and to register go to www.medic.ms or call 601-352-1909.



Long Beach EDA Project

The City of Long Beach recently completed the installation of a new 1,000 gallon per minute water well and a new 500,000 gallon elevated water storage tank. These facilities are an integral part of a water system improvement plan that is intended to increase the overall reliability and capability of the Long Beach municipal water system, with emphasis on providing additional fire protection capability in the southwestern portion of the City where intense development is expected.

The new well will be the eleventh major well in the City, bringing total well capacity to 7,700 gallons per minute. The tank will be the third elevated storage tank in the system, bringing the total storage capacity to 1,500,000 gallons. A SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system was also installed to remotely monitor and control the new infrastructure.

The project was funded in part by a grant from the Economic Development Administration. The District wrote the grant and administered the project.

SBA Disaster Assistance

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest disaster loans to small non-farm businesses that suffered economic injury due to the Deepwater BP Oil Spill that began on April 20, 2010.

SBA customer service representatives will be at the following locations to offer one-on-one assistance in completing loan applications. The centers are open from 8 am until 5 pm Monday through Friday. For more information, visit a center or call 800-659-2955.

George County EOC
355 Cox Street – Suite J
Lucedale, MS 39452

Jackson County Fairgrounds
Ticket Office
2902 Shortcut Road
Pascagoula, MS 39567

Hancock County
Civic Center
335 Coleman Avenue
Waveland, MS 39576

Stone County Courthouse
323 E. Cavers Avenue
Wiggins, MS 39577

Harrison County
SBA Gulfport Branch Office
Hancock Bank Plaza
2510 14th Street, Suite 103
Gulfport, MS 39501



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