

# Alabama oil spill recovery commission to hold first meeting

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**George Talbot**

A new commission charged with leading the state's recovery from the Gulf oil spill will hit the ground running today in Spanish Fort, where the 80-plus member panel is scheduled to hold its first meeting.

The Alabama Coastal Recovery Commission will gather at the Five Rivers – Alabama Delta Resource Center to begin developing a plan to strengthen the coast against future catastrophes. Its work will be compiled in a report to be delivered to Gov. Bob Riley and the governor-elect by Dec. 15.

Riley, who is set to attend today's meeting, signed an executive order Monday creating the commission and naming Ricky Mathews, publisher of the Press-Register, as its chairman.

Organizers said today's meeting will be open to the news media, but public access will be restricted because of space limitations. The public will have the opportunity for input at future meetings of the commission, according to organizers.

Riley's executive order said the commission was established "to provide expertise, experience and leadership for development of a transparent, unbiased and well-considered report, detailing the road to resilience for south Alabama."

The commission's membership includes:

Carolyn Akers, executive director of the Mobile Area Education Foundation; Wendy Allen, director of Smart Coast; Gigi Armbricht, regional manager, BellSouth; John Baker III, president, Thompson Engineering; Clarence Ball, chairman, Mobile Housing Board; George Barber, chief executive, Barber Companies; Ann Bedsole, Sybil H. Smith Charitable Trust; Walter Bell, chairman,

Swiss Re America Holding Corp.; Preston Bolt, attorney, Hand Arendall; U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner; Riley Boykin-Smith, president, Tensaw Land & Timber Co.;

Also, David G. Bronner, chief executive, Retirement Systems of Alabama; Rebecca Byrne, director, United Way of Baldwin County; Sonny Callahan, former U.S. representative; Casi Callaway, executive director, Mobile Baykeeper; state Rep. Spencer Collier, designee of Alabama gubernatorial candidate Robert Bentley; David Cooper, vice chairman, Cooper/T. Smith Corp.; Gary Cooper, chairman, Commonwealth National Bank; George Crozier, executive director, Dauphin Island Sea Lab; Sarah Damson, chairwoman, Long's Human Resource Services; Richard Davis, chairman, Mobile Airport Authority; Buffy Donlon, co-owner, Wintzell's Restaurants; Mike Dow, former Mobile mayor;

Renee Dykin, orthodontist; Jack Edwards, former U.S. representative; Bert Eichold, health officer, Mobile County Health Department; Rosemary Elabash, Alabama state director, National Federation of Independent Business; Ben Fairey, charter boat captain, Necessity; Tyrone Fenderson, president, Commonwealth National Bank; Dee Gambill, senior vice president, Trust Department, Regions Bank; Win Hallett, president, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce; Seth Hammett, speaker, Alabama House of Representatives; Cedric Hatcher, president, RBC Bank;

Also, Monique Henley, president/owner, All Clean Janitorial Service; Ramona Hill, associate provost, Spring Hill College; Kelvin Hill, SAWDC liaison, Georgia Pacific; Sheila Hodges, chairwoman, Meyer Real Estate; Robert Ingram, president, Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance; Bucky Jakins, chief executive, Baldwin EMC; Paul Jones, president, Oil Recovery Co.; Anthony Kaiser, chairman, GUMBO; Keith King, chairman, Volkert & Associates; Bibb Lamar, chairman, BankTrust; Donald Langham, retired union executive; Barnett Lawley, commissioner, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Robert W. "Bubba" Lee, chief executive, Vulcan Inc.; Mike Lee, president, Page and Jones; Lance LeFleur, director, Alabama Department of Environmental Management; John Lewis, Lewis Communications; James Lowe, president.,

Bishop State Community College; Jimmy Lyons, director, Alabama State Docks; Herb Malone Jr., president, Alabama Gulf Coast CVB; Wildon Marenco, Mobile Bar Pilots; Ricky Mathews, publisher, Press-Register; Rich McAuliffe, director, South Baldwin Regional Medical Center; LaBarron McClendon, vice president, Mobile Gas; Charles McCrary, chief executive, Alabama Power Co.; Angelo Miller, executive director, United Way of Southwest Alabama; Harris Morrissette, president, China Doll Rice & Bean Inc.; Gordon Moulton, president, University of South Alabama; Chris Nelson, vice president, Bon Secour Fisheries Inc.; E.B. Peebles, attorney, Armbrecht Jackson; Hal Pierce, retired Navy captain; Conrad Pierce, retired physician; Michael Pierce, chairman, MLK Redevelopment Authority; Davis Pilot, chief executive, Pilot Catastrophe Services; Sydney Raine, chairman, Mobile Works; B.T. Roberts, designee of Alabama gubernatorial candidate Ron Sparks; Steven Roemhildt, commanding officer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Elizabeth Sanders, president, Mobile Downtown Alliance;

And, Mike Saxon, vice president, Mobile Division, Alabama Power Co.; Bob Shipp, chairman, Department of Marine Sciences, University of South Alabama; Sandy Stimpson, CFO, Scotch & Gulf Lumber Co.; Roberta Swann, director, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program; LaDon Swann, Miss.-Ala. Sea Grant Consortium; Bill Taylor, president, Economic Development Partnership of Alabama; Donna Watts, president, South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce; Linda Whitlock, president, Alabama Gulf Coast Area Chamber of Commerce; Palmer Whiting, Coastal Conservation of Alabama; Cheryl Williams, president, Spherion Staffing Services; Donald Williamson, director, Alabama Department of Public Health.