

## **LOUISIANA AT THE CROSSROADS**

R. King Milling

President, Whitney National Bank

228 St. Charles Avenue

New Orleans, Louisiana 70130 (phone 504-586-7176; fax 504-586-3658;

rmilling@whitneybank.com)

As a citizen of the State of Louisiana and a banker, there is concern that Louisiana is not prepared to support long-range decisions needed to methodically prioritize and implement the steps necessary to restore its coastal wetlands and barrier reefs.

The reasons why and what options are available to begin the process of changing the paradigm so as to properly present a case which will justify the expenditure of funds will be explored.

Louisiana must comprehend the financial consequences of failing to achieve the full restoration of our marshlands. By developing and documenting such consequences, the state may be able to build the necessary consensus from both a business and political point of view which will allow us to engage our national leaders as to the need for action.

How to develop such a story and how to create a structure which will allow for the orderly development of an engineering plan by which issues and measures of resolution can be appropriately vetted, answered and adopted, will be examined.