The planned work comes after about 480 homes in Carencro flooded in March during a heavy localized storm that dumped more than 10 inches of rain on the area in just a few hours.

Castille said the planned coulee project would not have prevented the flooding in March.

"There is nothing you can do to handle that," he said.

But Castille said that clearing the Beau Bassin Coulee should help ongoing flooding problems that Carencro experiences even during moderately heavy storms.

"There are still a lot of homes that flood when we have 3- or 4-inch rains," he said.

The project will involve cleaning out the main channel of the coulee to its original depth and clearing vegetation, Castille said.

He said Carencro has also set aside several acres of green space that will serve as a water retention area during heavy rains.

The project in Carencro will address just over 2 miles of the coulee that runs through the city.

A related project by Lafayette city-parish government will clear trees and vegetation from another half-mile section just outside the city limits of Carencro, City-Parish Director of Public Works Tom Carroll said.

Elzey said the corps would have design work take about six months to eight months, and the contract for clearing the coulee is expected to be awarded by the fall of 2013, assuming there are no issues with funding.

He said Carencro will contribute about $1.75 million to the project, which includes direct payments and the value of land and easements needed for the drainage work.