

## **Proposed Resolution Property Tax Calculations**

Delta Council recognizes that the current formula used by the Mississippi Department of Revenue and Mississippi State University to determine the value of Delta land for ad valorem tax calculation purposes results in Delta land in Mississippi being valued for tax purposes at a significantly higher amount than Delta land in our contiguous states. The resulting property tax calculation adding county and school millage to the annual land use determination by Mississippi State University and the Mississippi Department of Revenue decreases the market competitiveness of our Delta land. Delta Council supports a property tax calculation that allows Delta land to be market competitive with similar Delta soils in adjoining Delta states.

The land use value, as developed by the State of Mississippi in 1982 and annually determined by the Mississippi Department of Revenue and Mississippi State University, is a complex and complicated formula. Several items have been identified by a Delta Council Working Group that hold the potential to achieve the following two objectives:

1. Maintain equitable, accurate, and representative use-values for crop land and forestry land.
2. Reduce the elasticity of land use values due to fluctuating commodity prices and input costs so that public bodies can better plan and manage taxpayer contributions.

These are the items that hold the best potential for seeking objectives which can be administered by the Mississippi Department of Revenue and Mississippi State University, without requiring legislative guidance. We ask that these two agencies consider the items that have been identified to determine if any of them could be implemented to provide a more equitable property tax calculation.

