

REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING #22 MINUTES

Date: July 26, 2023 **Time:** 10:00-12:00pm

Location: City of Donaldsonville Meeting Room, 609 Railroad Ave.

Call to Order – 10:05

I. **Welcome:**

- Mart Black welcomed everyone to the twenty-second meeting of the Watershed Region 6 Steering Committee. Pat Gordon stated the purpose of the meeting with an overview of the meeting agenda
- Roll Call:
Present Committee Members (9/17)- David Weil, Justin Clement, Randi Ezell for Michelle Gonzales, Megan Dufrene, Marril McKarry, Dov Block for Tara Lambeth, Kasey Courville, Tammy Luke for Tim Matte, Mart Black, Kevin Durbin
Absent: Andrew Barron, Scott Saunier, John Clark, Theo Sanders, Mark Ward, Earl Matherne
Other: Pat Gordon, Jonathan Eastwood, Andrew Barron (Zoom) Kathleen Lunn, Kimberly Cole, Nicholas Schexnayder, Beryl Gomez, Tina Wilson, David Cody
- **Review and Adoption**

II. **Meeting Minutes**

- Mart Black went over the minutes from last meeting of May 24.
- Due to the initial lack of quorum, the adoption of the minutes could not take place; at a later time, motion by Kevin Durbin, seconded by David Weil with the condition to change HUB GATE to HUC 8; MARAGUINE to MARINGOUIN. Minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

III. **Discussion of State Watershed Plan and Status of Review**

- Pat Gordon discussed the current progress of the OCD State Watershed Plan. OCD is finalizing the plan and will send it out for public input. The plan aims to provide direction and organization for regional watershed plans developed by different watershed regions.

IV. **Report on Round II Projects Status**

- Pat Gordon provided an overview of the round two distribution, indicating an increase in funding from 100 million to 225 million. The focus is on projects benefiting low to moderate-income communities impacted by the floods of 2016. OCD is assessing all projects to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria.

V. **Ranking of Projects**

- Pat Gordon informed the attendees that all eligible project applications in Region 6, including the 11 LMI confirmed or verified projects, will be ranked by priority by the Steering Committee.

The ranking process will determine funding awards for the selected projects, with recommendations from the regional steering committees taken into consideration. Pat Gordon and Mart Black suggested taking on responsibility for ranking these projects for committee review at the next meeting. Motion by Marril McKarry, seconded by David Weil. Minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

VI. Dates for Recommendations to OCD

- The deadline for submitting recommendations to OCD was confirmed as August 31st, 2023. Importance of attendance at August 23rd meeting acknowledged.

VII. Committee Comments

- David Weil and Mart Black discussed effectiveness of current ranking system.

VIII. Public Comments

- Kimberly Cole asked for clarification on if allocation of funds would be decided based on pre-applications. Pat Gordon and Mart Black discussed.
- David Weil asked if adjustments could be made to projects post-selection.
- Kathleen Lunn clarified that any questions asked of one applicant should be asked of all and sent to OCD. She added that OCD is looking for rankings of all 33 projects, verified or not.
- David Weil raised concern over the best way to determine LMI information for these projects.
- Randi Ezell asked for discussion on letters of intent.

IX. Next meeting location will be in Ascension Parish. In-person meeting has been scheduled for August 23, 2023.

X. Adjourn

- Motion by David Weil, seconded by Megan Dufrene to adjourn. Unanimously approved.