

# REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

## MEETING #23 MINUTES

**Date:** August 23, 2023 **Time:** 10:00-12:00pm

**Location:** City of Donaldsonville Parish Courthouse, 300 Houmas St , Donaldsonville La 70346

**Call to Order – 10:05**

### I. **Welcome:**

- Mart Black welcomed everyone to the twenty-third 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 (10/17)- Andrew Barron, David Weil, Leroy Blanchard, Steven Stein for John Clark, Megan Dufrene, Dov Block, Mark Ward, Mart Black, Kevin Durbin, Randi Ezell*  
*Absent: Michelle Gonzales, Marril McKarry, Tim Matte, Scott Saunier, Kasey Courville, Earl Matherne, Theo Sanders*  
*Other: Pat Gordon, Jonathan Eastwood, Theo Sanders (Teams), Kathleen Lunn (Teams), Bonnie Donaldson (Teams), Tina Wilson (Zoom), David Cody (Zoom)*
- **Review and Adoption**

### II. **Meeting Minutes**

- Mart Black went over the minutes from the last meeting of July 26.
- Motion by Kevin Durbin, seconded by David Weil. Minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

### III. **Review and Endorse HGMP Letters of Intent from Parishes**

- Pat Gordon discussed the \$3.5 million in funding for the region. Those interested were directed to submit a letter of intent to the steering committee for voting on endorsement. Ascension, Jefferson, and Lafourche parishes submitted letters, and all three received a recommendation of endorsement by Pat Gordon.
- Ascension Parish submitted a letter of intent for a drainage project to eliminate flooding in St. Jude subdivision on the west side of the parish. Motion to endorse by David Weil, seconded by Megan Dufrene. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- Jefferson Parish submitted a letter of intent for several elevation projects for areas outside of levee protection. Motion to endorse by Megan Dufrene, seconded by David Weil. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- Lafourche Parish submitted a letter of intent for Bush Hill pump station improvements. Motion to endorse by Megan Dufrene, seconded by Kevin Durbin. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

- Assumption Parish did not submit a letter of intent, but Leroy Blanchard detailed the Waterway Debris Removal Cleaning and Snagging project and made a motion to endorse, seconded by Andrew Barron. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

#### **IV. Round II Ranking Procedure for Pre-Applications**

- Pat Gordon provided an overview of the ranking criteria, which included considerations related to regional mitigation needs, feasibility, and the round two score criteria.
- Mart Black emphasized the importance of assessing the feasibility of the projects for implementation.

#### **V. Ranking of Projects**

- Motion by Leroy Blanchard to increase Project 1139 rankings from LOW to HIGH in all three categories for the purposes of regional mitigation needs and feasibility. Substitute motion made by Kevin Durbin to accept the current ranking due to the high cost of the project, seconded by Andrew Barron. Motion adopted with one objection by Leroy Blanchard, effectively nullifying the initial motion. Pat Gordon made a correction to an earlier statement and clarified that this project did in fact benefit LMI areas, and recommended the project be given a MEDIUM ranking in all three categories. Mart Black said the chair would change the ranking to MEDIUM and requested a motion for approval. Motion by Kevin Durbin, seconded by Dov Block. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- Motion by Mark Ward to increase Projects 1099 and 1096 feasibility rankings from LOW to MEDIUM. Mart Black and Pat Gordon expressed no objection to the motion. Kevin Durbin requested clarification on the motion, then made a motion to accept the current ranking for consensus reasons. Motion not seconded, failing. Initial motion made again by Mark Ward, seconded by Leroy Blanchard. Motion adopted with two objections by Kevin Durbin and Andrew Barron.
- Motion made by David Weil to increase Project 1026 feasibility from LOW to MEDIUM. Pat Gordon expressed no objection to the motion. Seconded by Leroy Blanchard. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- Motion by Kevin Durbin to reconsider ranking of Project 1139. Seconded by David Weil. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- Motion by Kevin Durbin to increase Project 1139 rankings from MEDIUM to HIGH in all three categories. Seconded by Leroy Blanchard. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- Mart Black requested a motion to approve the rankings of all projects including changes made. Motion by Leroy Blanchard, seconded by David Weil. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

#### **VI. Committee Comments**

- David Weil had questions about ineligible projects in LWI areas.
- Mark Ward asked about the timeline for submitting projects.
- Randi Ezell asked how the timeline works in relation to the state's plan.
- Leroy Blanchard expressed Assumption intent to apply for the HMGP Region 6 funds. Pat Gordon indicated that they would be recognized.

**VII. Public Comments**

- Leroy Sullivan expressed support for Project 1024.
- A member of the public expressed support for Project 1139.
- A member of the public inquired how many pre-applications had been approved to move forward.
- Troy Landry expressed support for Assumption Parish dredging projects.
- Barry Plaisance expressed support for Project 1119.
- Beryl Gomez expressed support for Projects 1139 and 1141.
- Carol Aquin expressed support for Projects 1139 and 1141.
- Jamie Pineville expressed support for colleagues and constituents in Pierre Part.
- David Weil expressed support for attendees from Pierre Part and Belle River.
- Brad Diaz expressed support for Project 1141.

**VIII. Next meeting location undecided, date of September 27 if necessary.**

**IX. Adjourn**

- Motion by David Weil, seconded by Andrew Barron to adjourn. Unanimously approved.