

REGION 6 GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

MEETING #1 MINUTES

Date: January 6, 2021 **Time:** 8:30-12:30pm

Location: South Central Planning and Development Commission

Video Recording of the Meeting can be found [here](#).

Call to Order – 8:36 by Kevin Durbin

I. Welcome

- Kevin Durbin welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Watershed Region 6 Governance Structure Sub Committee. He stated the purpose of the meeting with an overview of the meeting agenda.
- Roll Call
 - Present Committee Members (5/5): **Kevin Durbin, Devin Foil, John Boudreaux, Amanda Voisin, Earl Matherne**
 - Absent: Mart Black
 - Other: Pat Gordon, Adam Lefort, Evelyn Campo, Nicolette Jones, Michelle Gonzales, Beryl Gomez, Hilda Lott, Jennifer Gerbasi, Chris Pulaski, Jerome Fournier, Dr. Firmin

II. Coalition Governance Exercise Review

Exercise 1- What is the Work- Summary and Results

- Pat Gordon went over the summary of Exercise 1 and how we got to that point. Based on Exercise the 1, the main work for the coalition would be to provide project funding, operations and maintenance*, create consistency in higher standards*, manage project planning, develop and execute a watershed plan*, and provide data and support. The starred actions require authority that will need to be part of the final decision in creating the coalition. John Boudreaux wanted to make sure that whatever we do somehow mirrors the State Committee since the State has majority of the funding and to make sure it is a State Level Coalition. Nicolette Jones added that the role of the Regional Steering Committee is to come up with provisions to bring to the State. The State will vet through the draft plans and looking for our feedback.

Exercise 2- Who does the Work- Summary and Results

- Pat Gordon went over the summary of Exercise 2 and how we got to that point. He went over different entities that could be the coalition and what authority they can have. Parish/Municipalities have the most authority and can give authority to other entities through ordinance or agreement. Michelle Gonzales questioned why develop and enforcing higher standards are put together when they should be split into two. The committee then went over the summary from exercise to for the coalition responsibilities for Planning and Development Regulation, Project Implementation, and Data and Modeling. John Boudreaux wants to make sure the coalition aligns with State and Region. Between now through April, conversations with State Agencies should be happening.

Exercise 3- How does the Work get Done- Summary and Results

- Pat Gordon went over the summary of Exercise 3 and how we got to that point. We went over the poll questions from the previous meeting to see if the committee still agrees on what was the most selected response. The committee agreed on all with acknowledgment to change some wording to be more specific.

The Group took a 10 minute break.

III. Governance Structure Planning

Governance Structure Template Review

- Pat Gordon went over the introduction of the template. The committee then jumped to discuss the Roadmap to Implementing the Recommendation. These are the finalized answers for each question based off discussions:
 - **South Central Planning and Development Commission** shall facilitate all meetings of the Coalition and shall perform administrative functions related to the work of the Coalition. SCPDC was selected by a motion from Earl Matherne and seconded by . Unanimously approved.
 - The coalition should be enabled by legislation under state charter. Committee agreed to keep the same
 - All of the watershed coalitions in the state should be authorized by a single charter that includes a list of minimum standards and authorities identified by all regions, wherein each region is able to choose which additional higher standards or authorities to implement and at what degree within individual coalition bylaws/regional charters. Amanda Voisin wanted to clarify minimum standards with additional stands for each region can adopt.



- The coalition should be primarily composed of public entity representatives. Committee wanted to clarify that it's a public entity and not just public. They also wanted to open up to other groups to have representation that support the actions Region 6 is trying to accomplish.
 - These may include, but not limited to:
 - National Estuary Programs
 - Levee Districts
 - Drainage Districts
 - Higher Education Institutes
 - Research Institutes
 - Water Districts
 - Coastal Institutes
 - The coalition can establish technical or advisory committees that may appoint public members to assist in the committee's goals to report to the coalition.
- The coalition should have oversight by the established state agency for the Watershed Initiative that provides consistency and state-level management. Committee wanted to specify the state agency responsible for the LWI.
- An established working relationship and between the Regional Coalition and the State Agency is vital to the success of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. Committee wanted to make sure that the regions are involved with what the State is doing.
- The regional watershed boundaries should be recognized by a legislatively authorized state agency, board or commission that has the authority to amend the boundaries at the request of the coalitions through a public process. Committee agreed to use the same verbiage from the poll question from Exercise 3.
- The coalition should have the ability to explore and maintain all options for funding. Committee agreed to open up to all funding from the poll question from Exercise 3.
- The state should lead the effort in drafting the legal elements that reflect these recommendations while the regions collect feedback on provisional recommendations and the regions should be kept aware of continued progress. Committee agreed to keep the same

- After finishing the Roadmap to implementing the recommendation, the committee went to discuss the regional summary. The draft template was not specific to Region 6, so the original language was not relevant. The committee decided to use the Region 6 Summary from Exercise 3 to complete this section. This was the final summary:
 - Planning and Development Regulation
 - Develop and adopt regional watershed plans
 - Align local ordinances/standards to manage development to reduce flood risk (e.g., stormwater regulations)
 - Support local jurisdictions with technical assistance and provide capacity (e.g., assist with CRS program)
 - Assist with FIRM map amendments, help with the administrative burden (i.e., noticing requirements)
 - Advocate on behalf of localities at federal level (FEMA), coordinate with federal entities
 - Project Implementation
 - Serve as clearinghouse who can find supplemental funding for watershed projects
 - Implement a regional project O&M plan
 - Reviews major projects for upstream and downstream impacts
 - Data and Modeling
 - The coalition should be tasked with housing and operating the LWI watershed model for Region 6
 - Create or update FIRMS based on models
 - Outreach and Engagement
 - The coalition should provide public outreach and education to residents and local leaders
 - Recommended Authorities for the Coalition
 - Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies
 - Authority to finance, fund, plan, establish, acquire, construct or reconstruct, enlarge or extend, equip, operate, and maintain systems and infrastructure
 - Authority to generate revenue (e.g.: issue/sell bonds, borrow money or accept grants, collect fees, levy tax/special assessments)
 - Authority to adopt development codes
 - Authority to enforce development codes if given permission by governmental agencies

- Kevin Durbin went around to ask each member what is one thing they want to take away from this meeting. Earl Matherne does not want the Coalition to go into enforcement. John Boudreaux wants consistency between State and Region. Amanda Voisin wants consistency between all regions with minimum standards. Devin Foil wants consistency and also wants the coalition to be a public entity, but have enough ample time to get information/knowledge from research groups. Kevin Durbin wants to make sure that the Regional Coalitions have representation on LWI Council.

IV. Overview of Timeline

2021 Timeline

- January 21, 2021 follow up meeting if needed
- January 27, 2021- RSC Steering Committee
- January 31, 2021- Draft Governance Structure due to State

At this time, public comment was opened. There was none.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.