

REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING #1 MINUTES

Date: April 30, 2020 **Time:** 10:00-12:30pm

Location: South Central Planning and Development Commission Video Conferencing

Call to Order – 10:05 by Pat Gordon

I. Welcome

- Pat Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated the purpose of the meeting with an overview of the meeting agenda. He stated that there will be no action taken at this meeting and the elect of officers and other action will be taken next meeting.
- Roll Call
 - Present Committee Members (15/17): David Weil, John Boudreaux, Andrew Barron, Scott Saunier, John Clark, - Maggie Talley, Amanda Voisin, Theo Sanders, Hilda Loft (Proxy for Rickie Blake), Earl Matherne, Devin Foil, Kasey Courville, Beau Lagrange (Proxy for Tim Mott), Mart Black, Kevin Durbin
 - Absent: Mark Ward, Marrill McKarry
 - Other: Pat Gordon, Adam Lefort, Cassie Parker, Nicolette Jones, Alex Carter, Matthew Martinec, Dori Turner, Jennifer Gerbasi, Ann Guissinger, Ben Wicker, Henry Lagrange, John Clark, Drew, Ratcliff, Seneca Toussant, Risa Mueller, Chris Pulaski, Kyle Galloway, Steve Nosacka, and Rawley Webber

II. Program Background, Goals, and Meeting Procedures

Background

- Pat Gordon went over the LWI Project Background. He stated that long-term is quoted twice, and that this planning initiative is long term.

Goals

- The NOFA for Regional Capacity Building Grant Program (RCBG) was announced in August 2019 with SCPDC applying for the Region 6 area. The Region 6 Territory is defined by the boundaries West of Mississippi River and East of Atchafalaya. Only four Parishes in Region 6 are fully located inside the boundaries. The primary goals for the RCBG are to Form steering committees (first year), Choose management framework for coalition (first year), Establish coalitions (second and third years), and Maintain long-term support for coalitions.

Meeting Procedure

- Pat went over the open meeting requirements. He previously sent out the Procedures and By-Laws for the committee to review. He requested to please read Procedures after this meeting for adoption at the May Meeting. The Procedures are broken into three sections: Meeting Procedure Outline, Meeting and Procedural Materials, and Procedural Guidance in Response to Covid-19.

III. Regional Steering Committee Introductions

Region 6 Staff

- Pat Gordon introduced himself as the Watershed Coordinator for the Region and went over his year 1 goals.
- Adam Lefort was introduced as the Public Outreach Coordinator and Floodplain Manager and went over the year 1 goals for both positions.

OCD Watershed Staff

- Nicolette Jones introduced herself from OCD and went over the Watershed Initiative from the Statewide Perspective. She reiterated the importance of the committee for the 1 year time frame with the 4 main goals to achieve. The governance structure that the committee creates will be used to address and help reduce flood risk. She stated the Work Plan Template that should be completed by year 1 is a layout of activities to get to the point of a long-term solution.

Steering Committees Members- Each of the 15 out of 17 members present introduced themselves and stated their roles, work background, and goals for the committee.

- David Weil from Ascension Parish
- John Boudreaux from Assumption Parish Police Jury
- Andrew Barron from Bayou Terrebonne Natural Estuary Program
- Scott Saunier from Iberia Parish
- John Clark from Iberville Parish
- Maggie Talley from Jefferson Parish
- Amanda Voisin from Lafourche Parish
- Theo Sanders from Orleans
- Hilda Loft from Plaquemine Parish

- Earl Matherne from St. Charles Parish
- Devin Foil from St. John the Baptist Parish
- Kasey Courville from St. Martin Parish
- Beau Lagrange from St. Mary Parish
- Mart Black from Terrebonne Parish
- Kevin Durbin from W. Baton Rouge Parish

IV. Steering Committee Orientation

Primary Tasks

Pat Gordon went over the four primary tasks for the RSC to have by the end of the year. They are to adopt a work plan, compile a prioritized project list, submit Round 1 award recommendations to OCD, and select a governance model for Regional Watershed Coalition & consider watershed boundaries.

Expectations for RSC Members

- Pat went over the expectations of the RSC Members. They are to represent values, contribute expertise and express short and long-term concerns of stakeholder groups represented, attend meetings, be ready and prepared for meetings, understand the challenges in their region and/or parish/jurisdiction, and with Questions and Answers. He showed the Region 6 Work Plan Template that will be used to create the work plan for the next meeting.

At this time he opened up questions from the Committee.

- John Boudreaux asked what the process is to reappoint a member to the committee. With the situation going on now, he may not have time to dedicate to the RSC. Pat stated all that is needed is a letter from the Parish President appointing a new member in place of a previous one.
- Mart Black asked if the Parts 1, 2, and 3 were considered the By-Laws and Procedures. Pat Gordon responded yes. Nicolette Jones from OCD said that the State sent a sample document as a guidance for the Steering Committee to adopt and they can add if needed. Pat mentioned to send any comments about the procedures to him before they are adopted at the next meeting.

- Matthew Martinec from the City of Gretna asked the process of compiling the inventory list specifically for entities inside a Parish that are not formally a member of the committee. Pat Gordon responded that the inventory list has not started yet, but to send any ideas to the Parish that the entity is located in and add him to the email. Matthew Martinec stated that he has a project that addresses the needs of the program and will reach out with more information.
- Alex Carter from OCD added about the process for projects in the inventory list. She said that the projects that OCD are looking to fund strongly rely on data. They are working on some standardize to rate the priority of list for the whole State. Pat Gordon mentioned that the start of the list will come from unfunded Round 1 Projects. That Round 1 will give a jump start on creating the list.

Round 1 Timeline

- Pat Gordon went over the Round 1 timeline. All these dates are tentative and may be pushed back. The deadline to submit project application asked back from Round I is July 2020. Awards announced for Statewide Projects is September 2020. Regional project selection due to OCD is October 2020. Alex Carter stated that the dates are tentative. There will be at least a three month period after the announcement to have the applications submitted.

V. Overview of Timeline and Closeout

Program Milestones

- Pat Gordon went over the program milestones for the next three years that the program is currently funded. He mentioned that he thinks the program will extend past the three years.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- April 30- First RSC Meeting
- May- Adopt the RSC Work Plan
- June- Discuss regional flood risk and vulnerabilities
- October- Submit a “Regional Project Inventory” to LWI
- November- Provide preliminary recommendation on preferred coalition structure to LWI

Statewide River and Rain Gauge Network Program

- Pat Gordon reminded that today is the last day to send in location proposals for river and rain gauges to the State. Alex Carter said that if you do not have set locations yet, to email OCD that you have intentions to send locations but have not identified them yet.

Next Steps

- Plan next meeting for May 28, 2020. It will probably have to be in the same format. The future meetings, we will look into having them at different locations around the Region. Please e-mail Pat Gordon if you have any conflict with May 28.
- Approve the Procedures By-Laws
- Election of Officers first thing at the meeting
- Draft RSC Work Plan
- Complete and circulate minutes, bylaws/procedures, and RSC Work Plan
- Incorporate comments and corrections to meeting minutes
- Begin inventory of regional projects

At this time he opened up questions from the Public. There was none.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:12 A.M.