

REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING #10 MINUTES

Date: February 24, 2020

Time: 10:00-12:30pm

Location: South Central Planning and Development Commission Video Conferencing

Call to Order – 10:05 by Mart Black

I. Welcome

- Mart Black welcomed everyone to the tenth meeting of the Watershed Region 6 Steering Committee. Pat Gordon stated the purpose of the meeting with an overview of the meeting agenda. A video of the meeting can be found [here](#).
- Roll Call
 - Present Committee Members (15/17): **Andrew Barron, David Weil, John Boudreaux, John Clark, Amanda Voisin, Mark Ward, Earl Matherne, Devin Foil, Kasey Courville, Mart Black, Kevin Durbin, Marril McKarry, Mike Metcalf, Tim Matte, Maggie Talley**
 - Absent:, Scott Saunier, Theo Sanders
 - Other: Pat Gordon, Adam Lefort, Janice Lovett, Nicolette Jones, Laci Melancon, , Tim Bourcier, Marvin McGraw, Jenny Schexnayder, Hilda Lott, Jennifer Gerbasi, Sarah Munez, Allison Haertling, Mohamad Bagha, Marvin McGraw, Leah Selcer

II. Review and Adoption

Meeting Minutes

- Mart Black went over the minutes from last meeting on January 27.
- A motion to accept the minutes was by Kevin Durbin and seconded by Earl Matherne. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

III. Project Inventory

Overview by Pat Gordon

- Pat Gordon briefly reminded the committee of the inventory list process. Round 1 Funding Opportunity has been opened as of September 18 and deadline for submission has been pushed back to March 12, 2021. All the information is available on Louisiana Watershed Website. If anyone needs any assistance, please contact SCPDC.

- Pat went over the coring criteria for Round 1. He went through the State's application evaluation points and how the RSC can follow those criteria. The State will rank all the applications and will fund the highest. The RSC can take the same list of projects that the State scored and fund up to the \$5 million. The other option is for the RSC to come up with our own ranking to submit to the State for approval. One recommendation our RSC has is to take the top 5-10 projects that the State has scored and we can rank those projects. At the next meeting, we will go over the ranking plan for our \$5 million. Mart Black mentioned that a lot of weight is going to the most impacted Parishes for the ranking which our Region does not have any designated parishes. The State wants a criteria by April. Nicolette Jones wanted to add that the decision is coming from a rubric that is designated by the state. She understands that some regions may have higher priorities based off the State, so that is why it is open to create a new scoring. Andrew Barron asked if the Region does a different ranking, does the state need to approve. Nicolette said there is no approval process from the State, but needs the process received prior than the projects are sent out to make sure it is fair, it just needs to be provided.
- A motion to amend the agenda to remove a presentation by Wendell Curole from the South Lafourche Levee District was made by Earl Matherne and seconded by John Boudreaux. It was advised to wait until after the Round 1 funding has been selected for presentations about projects to be safe from any conflict of interest or unfair advantage. It was approved unanimously.

IV. Sub-Committee Update

Floodplain Managers Sub-Committee

- Adam Lefort went over the Floodplain Managers sub-committee. The group held a meeting on February 22. The committee adopted a work plan for 2021 that focused on outreach, CFMs and the CRS.

V. Louisiana Watershed Updates

Funding White Pages

- Pat Gordon wanted to inform that the LWI staff has been working on a long-term funding document for all Regions. They will be making a presentation at future meetings about the document and opportunities. Nicolette Jones added that the LWI team has been researching for unique and sustainable funding for the continuation of this program.

Outreach and Communication

- Pat Gordon went the outreach template from LWI. It is time to go out and reach out to elected officials, stakeholders, and levee and drainage districts. Outreach will start as soon as possible and start with our RSC members to reach out to their elected officials. All

outreach efforts need to be from the template and reported in our Quarterly Reports. We need to ensure we have buy-in from our stakeholders before the 2022 legislature. Nicolette Jones added that this is part of what the Regional Coalition will look like. This is to make sure more people are aware about the program. Mart Black asked if these meetings need to be public meetings and advertised. Nicolette said it does not need to be public if it is a general one on one meeting. It needs to be a public meeting if there is a quorum of RSC members. The meetings can be held at Council Meetings to maybe generate meeting. This will be an option for all Parishes if the Local Government agrees.

VI. Committee Members Comments

- Mart Black opened up for any questions from the committee. There was none.
- Mart Black opened up for Public Comment at this time. There was none.

VIII. Overview of Timeline

Round 1 Timeline

- HUD approved the grant agreement on September 18. The deadline to submit project applications is on March 12, 2021, Awards announced for \$60 million in statewide projects in May 2021, and Regional selection recommendations are due to OCD in Summer 2021.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- March 12, 2021- Round 1 Application Due
- Summer 2021 – Regional Round 1 Recommendations Due

Next Steps

- Plan next meeting for March 24, 2021.
- Plan next meeting
- Complete and circulate minutes
- Incorporate comments and corrections to meeting minutes
- Continue to discuss regional flood risk and vulnerabilities
- Round 1 Funding Applications

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 A.M by John Boudreaux and seconded by Kevin Durbin.