

## REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

### MEETING #11 MINUTES

**Date:** March 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 eleventh 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): **David Weil, John Boudreaux, Amanda Voisin, Mark Ward, Earl Matherne, Devin Foil, Kasey Courville, Mart Black, Kevin Durbin, Marril McKarry, Tim Matte, Michelle Gonzales**
  - Absent: Andrew Barron, Scott Saunier, John Clark, Marc Martinec, Hilda Lott
  - Other: Pat Gordon, Adam Lefort, Mariann Alvarez, Nicolette Jones, Tim Bourcier, Steve Picou, Leroy Blanchard, Marvin McGraw

#### II. Review and Adoption

##### Meeting Minutes

- Mart Black went over the minutes from last meeting on February 24, 2021.
- A motion to accept the minutes was by John Boudreaux and seconded by Mark Ward. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

#### III. Long Term Funding White Papers

##### Presentation by Steve Picou

- Steve Picou from Adaptation Strategies presented on LWI's Long Term White Pages that can be found [here](#). He went over examples from other communities to see how to sustain funding. Mart Black asked where the information can be found, but the papers will be sent out and located on the LWI website. John Boudreaux wanted to explain that from local level, a lot of information needs to be enacted at the State level in order for the local governments to use. LWI is in charge of working with State officials.

#### **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. They are planning their April meeting.

#### **V. Proposed Scoring of Round 1 Regional Projects**

##### Overview by Pat Gordon

- Pat Gordon went over the scoring requirements for the regional selection for Round 1 funding. The state needs recommendations by April 31 on how scoring will be done at the regional level before they announce the State's Round 1 awards. SCPDC have developed three options to be brought up to the committee for consideration.
  - Accept the Scoring of the LWI Staff and fund the top projects;
  - Develop our own scoring criteria with the approval of LWI Staff, or;
  - Amend Scoring of the LWI by taking top 5 projects from State scoring list and scoring these projects separately by Effectiveness in Minimizing Risk and Project Cost and Implementation
- There was discussion on what the main roles of the Steering Committee in selecting the \$5 million for regional projects. Mart Black wanted to drill more into the scoring criteria of effectiveness in minimizing risk and project costs and implementation into sub categories to focus. He also added to look into social benefits. He thinks everyone should have their input and vote on projects on the criteria. He was concerned about what the scores should be that people can give. He suggests a modified option 3. Earl Matherne wanted to bring up some information from other regions he sits on. He talked about timing and anything other than the State evaluation will require justifications that will require additional work. The concern is how much time it takes to defend the criteria if the committee is no longer active. A way to fund other projects out of order to make sure \$5 million is spent if another higher ranking project is over budget. His opinion is to stay with the State method. Mart mentioned that he doesn't think we will go far away from the State's scoring. Pat Gordon mentioned that the reason we added project costs to the requirements and make sure we do not exceed \$5 million. John Boudreaux mentioned some of the projects can be staged or Phased to work within the budget. He is for Option 3, but he wants to work with the issues of the region and look at all the projects. Pat Gordon stated that 2 main goals of the RSC is to form a Coalition and select regional projects of \$5million. If the board wants to score all the projects, they can, but a subcommittee will need to be formed. There will be multiple

rounds of funding. Mart Black mentioned that is the top 5 projects meeting the \$5 million, then we don't need to look at all the projects. Mart Black looked at the State Scoring criteria and mentioned that half of the project goes into risk reduction. He mentioned that we can ask why some projects were not in the top 5. Nicolette Jones wanted to say that the State received funding to lower flood risk. Round I funding is intended by the State to fund High Reward, Low Risk projects. They should be implemented right away with no down/upstream impact. The State developed the rubric to get to those projects. Regions may have unique circumstances that may want to change the States intent of Round I and focus on one type of project: like buyouts. They want to make sure in advance what the priorities are before the list of projects are sent from the State. If the priorities are the same as the state, there is no need to change the scoring. Mart Black mentioned that he does not know what priorities are in other Parishes besides his. Some parishes may have different priorities, but he wants to see the projects before making those decisions. Pat Gordon does not think this Round is for creating priorities right now. Mart wants to see the entire list of projects before he makes a decision. Earl Matherne mentioned that they State wants to make sure priorities are established ahead of time so no priorities are created in order to fund a certain project. John Boudreaux mentioned that local governments can come up with projects to serve a wider community rather than elevations/acquisitions. Michelle Gonzales mentioned that we need to know our regions goals and if it has ever been defined. Pat Gordon mentioned the RSC goals are not to define the goals, but it will be done when the Coalition is established. Earl Matherne said if we write our own criteria, we need to define our goals. Michelle does think we can arbitrarily assign numbers to something until we know what our priorities are. Pat Gordon will put something together to send to the committee members to figure out what the goals are to approve for the April meeting.

## **VI. Outreach and Communication**

### *Outreach and Communication*

- Pat Gordon went the outreach template from LWI. He has reached out to all steering committee to plan meetings with elected officials to have an informative meeting. We would like to present at council meetings, levee districts, BTNEP, nonprofits, etc. If he does not hear back from the RSC committee members, he will go to the Chief Elected Officials directly to plan the meeting. The talking points are on the website. At the April 28 meeting, we hope to give you a list of all meeting attended and outreach efforts.

## **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 was 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

- April 31, 2021- Round 1 Scoring Recommendation due
- Summer 2021 – Regional Round 1 Project Selection Due

### Next Steps

- Plan next meeting for April 28, 2021.
- Plan next meeting
- Complete and circulate minutes
- Incorporate comments and corrections to meeting minutes
- Outreach and Communication
- Continue to discuss Round 1 Scoring
- Round 1 Funding Applications

**Meeting Adjourned:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:41 A.M by Earl Matherne and seconded by Michelle Gonzales.