

REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING #12 MINUTES

Date: April 28, 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 twelfth 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 (14/17): **David Weil, John Boudreaux, Amanda Voisin, Mark Ward, Earl Matherne, Kasey Courville, Mart Black, Kevin Durbin, Amber Sheppard (proxy for Marril McKarry), Michelle Gonzales, Andrew Barron, Scott Saunier, John Clark, Mike Metcalf**
 - Absent:, Matt Martinec, Rene Pastorek, Tim Matte
 - Other: Pat Gordon, Adam Lefort, Pat Forbes, Nicolette Jones, Tim Bourcier, Carla Chiasson, Jenny Schexnayder, Rachelle Sanderson, Kyle Galloway, Allison Haertling, Dori Turner, Hilda Lott, Oneil Malbrough

II. Review and Adoption

Meeting Minutes

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

III. Sub-Committee Update

Floodplain Managers Sub-Committee

- Adam Lefort went over the Floodplain Managers sub-committee. The group held a meeting on April 14. The main discussion was around outreach efforts each community does to inform residents and the community about floodplain related issues. The next meeting will be in June.

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 30 on how scoring will be done at the regional level before they announce the State's Round 1 awards. SCPDC developed 4 options and sent them out to the committee prior to vote. Below are the recommendations and committee votes.
 - Option 1: *1 Vote (8%)*

Accept the Scoring of the LWI Staff and fund the top projects; if a project will exceed the \$5 million, the next eligible project will be selected

Default: Recommendation if a decision is not made by the April 31, 2021 deadline.
 - Option 2: *1 Vote (8%)*

Amend Scoring criteria of the LWI by funding the top projects from State scoring based on their points assigned to:

 - Effectiveness in Minimizing Risk
 - Project Cost and Implementation

Note: If a project will exceed the \$5 million, the next eligible project will be selected

There was discussion on what the main roles of the Steering Committee in selecting the \$5 million for regional projects.
 - Option 3: *9 Votes (78%)*

Have all members review and score all projects based on watershed scoring criteria by:

 - Effectiveness in Minimizing Risk
 - Project Cost and Implementation
 - Social Benefits

Note: If a project will exceed the \$5 million, the next eligible project will be selected

*Create a sub-committee to figure out what sub scores to include for region's priorities.
 - Option 4: *1 Vote (8%)*

Have all members rescore all projects using the LWI scoring criteria
- Amanda Voisin made a motion to select option 3 based off the overwhelming selection of from the committee. Michelle Gonzales seconded. There was no discussion at this time besides mentioning that a sub-committee will be formed. The motion was approved. Nicolette Jones asked for clarification that the RSC is planning on scoring the criteria and prioritization. Pat Gordon said that the RSC will score the projects based off the State's scoring rubric using the same criteria as the State. The scores will be based off effectiveness in minimizing risk, project costs and implementation, and social benefits.

VI. Outreach and Communication

Outreach and Communication

- Pat Gordon went over the outreach and communication SCPDC has completed. He has been meeting with Parish Presidents; including, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, West Baton Rouge, and Iberville. Presentations have also been don't at Council meetings at Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. John, and Assumption. The remaining Parish's will be presented to in May. Pat also submitted the talking points to the Official Journal of each Parish, our website, and Constant Contact. He has communicated with non-profits including BTNEP, Wetlands Discovery Center, Restore or Retreat, Chitimacha Native American Organization, Upper Delta Soil and Conservation District. So far SCPDC have received positive feedback. All outreach needs to be completed by May. David Weil commented that he will get in contact with Pat for coordination. He mentioned that on May 6, the West Ascension Drainage Board meeting will be taking place that he would like the SCPDC to present at. Mart Black mentioned that it is important to make every effort to attend any events that is happening in each RSC community.

VI. Committee Members Comments

- Mart Black opened up for any questions from the committee. John Boudreaux wanted to know if it was possible to give short presentations the RSC committee with Round 1 applications in order to get a better idea of what is being funded. Adam Lefort brought up that it may be a conflict of interest with the presentation. Pat Gordon asked if the State is reviewing. Nicolette Jones said the State is not doing this and an issue with this is that this is a competitive project and it is giving an unfair advantage. The State only went by what was given in the presentation. The State can give technical support if the RSC requests. Pat Gordon suggested that a sub-committee should be appointed to see how the scoring process with be completed. A sub-committee was formed by Mart Black, John Boudreaux, Amanda Voisin, Michelle Gonzales, and Kevin Durbin.
- Mart Black opened up for Public Comment at this time. Kyle Galloway with GIS Engineering wanted to ask since the scoring criteria had a note with exceeding \$5 million, if the committee would consider breaking up projects into smaller amounts to fund. He had spoken with OCD about partial awards and it would be considered if the partial award would meet the national objective. Some applications are going to exceed \$5million and some projects may benefit from partial award. He encourages the RSC to consider that option. Pat Gordon interpreted that all projects need to stand independent of one another.

If an application is broken into Phases, it is possible, but not if the application was not structured for partial award. Pat Forbes with OCD said the State wants to open as possible to see what the region wants. He thinks it makes sense to keep an open mind when the sub-committee meets as long as the integrity of the competitive process is met and the national objective is met. Kyle Galloway said that some applicants structured their applications to be funded by the State level and broken up to meet the Regional level funding. Pat Forbes mentioned that Rachelle Sanderson put in the chat that, "A project can be selected to receive funds from more than one region, but the project award size cannot exceed \$5 million from any single region. Watershed regions are encouraged to coordinate to ensure no duplication in project selection." There is an option to have local funds used to select the project. Rachelle Sanderson from Region 7 stepped in and said that the guidance from OCD a project can only be awarded over \$5 million if it crosses regional boundaries and that the award size cannot exceed \$5 million from one region. The local matches are not an option in this round from her conversations. John Boudreaux brought up that this is the reason communication is important in scoring the criteria. Mart Black commented that it may be too early, but it does not exclude the option to reach out to applicants for more information if necessary. John Boudreaux said that he did not want to put an unfair advantage by doing that for singular projects. Mart black said if that is the case, we shouldn't need to hear from anybody and only look at what was submitted. Rachelle Sanderson mentioned that they are not allowed to reach out to applicants because it does not align with the competitive process. Pat Gordon mentioned that the applications submitted can include that they will provide a local match if funded to be more competitive. The applications should reflect any non-federal funds being used for consideration of the project.

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 30, 2021- Round 1 Scoring Recommendation due
- Summer 2021 – Regional Round 1 Project Selection Due

Next Steps

- Plan next meeting for May 26, 2021.
- Plan next meeting
- Complete and circulate minutes
- Incorporate comments and corrections to meeting minutes
- Outreach and Communication
- Continue to discuss Round 1 Scoring

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 A.M by Amanda Voisin and seconded by David Weil.