

REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING #14 MINUTES

Date: June 23, 2020 **Time:** 10:00-12:30pm

Location: South Central Planning and Development Commission Video Conferencing

Call to Order – 10:06 by Mart Black

I. Welcome

- Mart Black welcomed everyone to the fourteenth 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 (11/17): **David Weil, John Boudreaux, Andrew Barron, John Clark, David Illgen, Theo Sanders, Mike Metcalf, Marril McKarry, Mark Ward, Earl Matherne, Rene Pastorek, Kasey Courville, Mart Black, Kevin Durbin**
 - Absent: Scott Saunier, Amanda Voisin, Tim Matte
 - Other: Pat Gordon, Adam Lefort, Laci Melancon, Tim Bourcier, Ken Brass, Alyce Theriot, Beryl Gomez, Kyle Galloway, Tara Lambeth, Seneca Toussant, Nicolette Jones, Jenny Schexnayder, Leah Selcer, Allison Haertling, Hilda Lott

II. Review and Adoption

Meeting Minutes

- Mart Black went over the minutes from last meeting on May 26, 2021.
- A motion to accept the minutes was by Earl Matherne and seconded by Kevin Durbin. 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 is planning on meeting on June 30, 2021 at 9:00.

IV. Governance Structure

Outreach Strategy

- Pat Gordon went over the outreach strategy that was done for the Governance Structure. In Phase I he contacted all 16 Parishes through the efforts of the Steering Committee Members, Scheduled meetings through the Steering Committee Members with Parish Administration, Presented to the Parish Councils and other Stakeholders as directed by Parish President/Administration, and Sent talking points out through constant contact, website, and planned social media postings. In Phase II he submitted Watershed Governance Recommendation to all 16 Official Journals of the Parishes within Region 6, and in Phase III he requested the Henry Consulting Group to assist with the outreach efforts to the other Non-Profit organizations within Region 6. He then went over all the outreach to Parish President, Council Meetings, and other groups. The key take-away from the outreach was: Equal representation of all Parishes, Most were glad that something like this is finally happening and excited to see what comes out of the Initiative, Most were happy to work with the Watershed groups to help improve, Data driven decisions should be on drainage instead of political decisions, Looking at Affordable Housing Needs in the region and how our Watershed efforts should be integrated, and Some concerns by the limited funding and priorities set out by OCD regarding the impacted Parishes and with silting of waterways and damage from agricultural flooding. Overall, based on the extensive outreach campaign and general comments from the public we do not anticipate any changes to the provisional Governance Recommendations. Nicolette chimed in and stated that they would like to present the recommendations at the August 5, 2021 Watershed Council meeting. The draft of the plan would be in fall to be approved in legislation in spring 2022. Mart Black wanted to make sure that the Regions will take part in the drafting of legislation. John Boudreaux asked if there has been any outreach to current legislators yet to get a feel of the program. The consensus is that OCD will have those conversations and get the appropriate members to sponsor. Pat Gordon then went over the recommended governance structure and a motion was made by Mike Metcalf and seconded by Earl Matherne to submit the final governance recommendation to the State with no change. It passed unanimously.

V. Round 1 Applications

Overview by Pat Gordon

- Pat Gordon went over the Round 1 projects that from Region 6 that were submitted to the State. There was 20 overall project, 13 were not scored, 3 were funded by the State, and 4 are available at the regional selection. The State is allowing some flexibilities for the regions to address their selection. They are Budget Revisions, Recommend eligible projects initially proposed > \$5M, Funding Flexibility, Defer \$5 funding to Rd. 2 Design Support, or Extend Deadline for Decision. Based off Region 6 Scoring criteria, the RSC will select projects based off Effectiveness of Minimizing Risk, Project Costs and Implementation, and Social Benefits. John Boudreaux asked about the applications and how it was decided to be scored or not. Nicolette Jones said all applicants received an email about their project, but SCPDC staff can go in and let applicants know and give information about all projects to members if they request. Rene Pastorek was under the impression that they would receive all the scoring from all projects. Kevin Durbin agreed just to see what other ideas are happening across the region. All ineligible projects were not sent to the scoring committee. Nicolette Jones then went over the projects ineligibility and how projects got to the regional selection. Ken Brass asked for the additional projects but they are going to be discussed later in the presentation. John Clark asked about the project funding if over the \$5 million. Nicolette Jones did not want projects to alter their scope or phasing. They want the funds spent as quickly as possible. If additional funds are available, they would want that information as soon as possible since there is no hard timeline. He also asked about the BCA for the project. The BCA should be for the overall project and not by Phase. Ken Brass added that both projects are in his district are under \$5million so they do not need to go out and secure any funds. The scoring sub-committee will review the 4 projects to score and bring a recommendations at the July Meeting. The committee consists of Mart Black, John Boudreaux, Amanda Voisin, Michelle Gonzales, and Kevin Durbin that was created in March. It will be a public meeting held on July 21, 2021 and open to the public at SCPDC.

VI. Round 2 Next Steps

- Nicolette Jones went over the Design Support Pilot Program that will assist communities in preparing project applications for future rounds. It is to build on the momentum of Round 1, address need for buyouts, support small towns and parishes, and encourage collaboration and not competition. Rene Pastorek stated that this is a good program for smaller Parishes and glad to see this step moving forward.

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. Seneca Toussant is getting his head around the additional flexibilities to not lose sight of the intention of Round 1. He assisted with some of the project applications and looked at the confines of the program when preparing the selected projects.

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 on May 27, 2021, and Regional selection recommendations are due to OCD in July 2021.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- June 2021 – Final Governance Adoption
- Summer 2021 – Regional Round 1 Recommendations

Next Steps

- Plan next meeting for July 28, 2021.
- Complete and circulate minutes
- Incorporate comments and corrections to meeting minutes
- Outreach and Communication
- Round 1 Funding Applications and scoring

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 A.M by John Boudreaux and seconded by Earl Matherne.