

REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING #16 MINUTES

Date: August 25, 2021 **Time:** 10:00-12:00pm

Location: South Central Planning and Development Commission Video Conferencing

Call to Order – 10:05 by Kevin Durbin, Vice Chairman

I. Welcome

- Kevin Durbin welcomed everyone to the sixteenth 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 (13/17): **David Weil, John Boudreaux, Andrew Barron Michelle Gonzales, Amanda Voisin, Mike Metcalf, Marril McKarry, Earl Matherne, Tara Lambeth, Kasey Courville, Kevin Durbin, Chris Pulaski, John Clark**
 - Absent: Scott Saunier, Tim Matte, Theo Sanders, Mark Ward
 - Other: Pat Gordon, Laci Melancon, Alyce Theriot, Nicolette Jones, Jenny Schexnayder, Allison Haertling, Jennifer Gerbasi, Brady Richard

II. Review and Adoption

Meeting Minutes

- Kevin Durbin went over the minutes from last meeting of July 28, 2021.
- A motion to accept the minutes was made by Earl Matherne and seconded by Mike Metcalf. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

III. Presentation by Teal Harrison from Flood Wise Communities

- The presentation informed the Steering Committee that Flood Wise Communities addresses Vulnerability Assessments, Adaptation Planning, Community Engagement and Health and Climate Assessments.
- Ms. Harrison also indicated that the communities could go to www.floodwisecommunities.org and click on ‘apply today’ to submit an application.
- She further indicated that for additional information you should go to ProjectTeam@floodwisecommunities.org
- Kevin Durbin thanked Ms. Harrison and opened for comments.
- Andrew Barron, BTNEP Representative, requested if you had to be a local government to participate and she indicated no. Anyone can participate.

IV. Sub-Committee Update

Floodplain Managers Sub-Committee

- Patrick Gordon explained that there were no updates due to no meetings last month. Hopefully next month.

V. Round 1 Applications

Overview by Patrick Gordon

- P. Gordon went over the four (4) projects received from OCD to score and rank in priority.
 - P. Gordon explained that the White Castle Canal Drainage Improvement Project and the Bayou Lafourche Pump project were both recommended for approval at the last steering committee meeting and then sent on the Watershed Council which approved on August 5, 2021.
 - Tabled from the last meeting was **Motion 2** stated as follows:
 - “Move to partially fund the remaining projects in the following priority order contingent on OCD approval:”
 1. Upper Terrebonne Basin Drainage Improvement Project at \$1.37 million
 2. West Ascension Drainage Project at \$1.37 million
- If neither project is approved by OCD for approval, the remaining \$370,000 from Round 1 will be deferred to Round 2 Design Support.
- After lengthy discussion from David Neil and John Boudreaux regarding how the remaining funds could be spent P. Gordon and Nicolette Jones provided additional information to address.
 - Motion made by Chris Pulaski and seconded by Earl Matherne to remove this motion from the table and to accept Motion 2 as written. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Watershed Council Actions.

- P. Gordon explained that all Watershed Coordinators presented their Regions Governance recommendations at the August 5, 2021 Watershed Council meeting. It was well received by all members of the Watershed Council.

- The Watershed Council approved an additional \$800,000. to all Watershed Regions for the next four (4) years to continue as the Region Coordinator and fiscal agent until 2026.
- Watershed Region 5 recommended to the Watershed Council to include all of Iberia and St. Martin Parishes in their Region and remove their boundaries from Region 6.
- Staff had recommended approval but wanted the ratification of the full Steering Committee before submitting to OCD.
- Motion by Earl Matherne and second by David Weil to consider this recommendation.
- Lengthy discussion ensued especially from John Clark and John Boudreaux concerning the previous team building with these other parishes and now they won't be at the table for discussions regarding Watershed Region 6 future projects.
- Earl Matherne made a substitute motion and seconded by John Clark to table this item until the next meeting and that we notify the representatives of Iberia and St. Martin Parish to attend and discuss their reasoning for pulling out of Region 6. Motion Passed!
- Mike Metcalf indicated he would be retiring and that Plaquemine Parish will need to find another representative on the Steering Committee. Many thanks and best wishes followed.

VII. Public Commits

- No Public Commits

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 A.M by John Boudreaux and seconded by Mike Metcalf. Motion Passed!