

## REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

### MEETING #3 MINUTES

**Date:** June 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 third meeting of the Watershed Region 6 Steering Committee. Cassie Parker went over housekeeping rules for the meeting. Pat Gordon stated the purpose of the meeting with an overview of the meeting agenda.
- Roll Call
  - Present Committee Members (14/17): **David Weil, John Boudreaux, Andrew Barron, Scott Saunier, John Clark, Maggie Talley, Amanda Voisin, Theo Sanders, Mark Ward, Earl Matherne, Devin Foil, Kasey Courville, Mart Black, Kevin Durbin**
  - Absent:, Rickie Blink, Marril McKarry, Tim Matte
  - Other: Pat Gordon, Adam Lefort, Cassie Parker, Nicolette Jones, Pat Forbes, Ben Wicker, Evelyn Campo, Leroy Blanchard, Risa Mueller, Max Ward, Ian Trahan, Matthew Martinec, Miriam Belblindia, Kenneth St. Germain, Leah Selcer, Jennifer Gerbasi, Marvin McGraw, Chris Pulaski, Annie Landry, Cynthia Duet, Jeffery Leuenberger, Beryl Gomez

#### II. Review and Adoption

##### Meeting Minutes

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

##### Work Plan Amendment

- Pat went over that the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month was not ideal for everyone. He suggested that the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month might be better. Maggie Talley mentioned that they have council meetings on Wednesday, so that might be an issue, but she will make it work.
- Mart Black asked if there was any objection to the change. There was none. The work plan amendment was adopted.

### III. Committee Member Comments

#### Inventory List

- Pat went over the Preliminary Inventory List. The list was originally formed by the projects that were submitted in Round 1 and were eligible. Not all of these projects will be funded. The Preliminary List will be built upon with additional projects. Pat went over the Project Inventory and the purpose. This list is a living document that will be changed over time. He briefly discussed the survey and mentioned that we will go over it at the next meeting. It is a comprehensive list of projects to assist the region.

#### Round 1 Timeline

- Pat Gordon went over the Round 1 timeline. All these dates are tentative and may be pushed back. The deadline to submit project application asked back from Round I is July 2020. Awards announced for Statewide Projects is September 2020. Regional project selection due to OCD is October 2020. Evelyn Campo mentioned that those timelines have been pushed back since they have not heard back from HUD. Since they are still waiting on the agreement, those dates can change. Mart Black asked if there is an idea of when the agreement will be received. Pat Forbes said they have expected it by now, but they can't start until they receive. They are waiting and hope it comes soon. Once the date is set, the State will notify and set those dates. Kevin Durbin asked about the inventory list and relation to the meeting. Pat Gordon explained that the inventory list has no criteria like the Round I funding did. The steering committee should look at the list to decide what is submitted at the final inventory list in October. Nicolette Jones mentioned that **"the list are separate, but somewhat interconnected because they are happening at the same time. The project inventory list should be thought of as something long term. It is the first time your region is putting together a wide list of everything that is out there, either in concept or maybe that was recently completed, to help serve as the foundation for your future watershed plan or capital improvement plan. The inventory list is an exercise of what projects are out there and to see opportunities to combine projects or perhaps change projects based on an understanding of what is happening in the other parts of the region. The Round 1 program has an aspect where the regional steering committee will get a list of projects that are eligible but not chosen by the State. You will get the Round 1 list and select a project or projects up to \$5 million that is for a separate program. They serve two purposes but both involve watershed projects. Some of the projects that were applied for in Round 1 funding might be on the Inventory List."** Members thanked Nicolette for the explanation and understand the purpose of the two.

#### **IV. Overview of Timeline**

##### Key Dates and Deadlines

- June- Discuss regional flood risk and vulnerabilities
- October- Submit a “Regional Project Inventory” to LWI
- November- Provide preliminary recommendation on preferred coalition structure to LWI

##### Next Steps

- Plan next meeting for July 22, 2020. It will have to be in the same format. For future meetings, we will look into having them at different locations around the Region.
- Review and Refine Inventory List for regional projects
- Complete and circulate minutes
- Incorporate comments and corrections to meeting minutes
- Continue to discuss the flood risk and vulnerabilities outcome
- Look into presentation from LWI to review the Inventory List Survey

##### Upcoming Events

- September 14-17 - Managing Floodplain Development (LO273) through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- September 30-October 2, 2020 - State of Louisiana Floodplain Managers Conference in Houma

At this time he opened up questions from the Public.

Kevin Durbin wanted to mention that we are looking into having future meetings in other locations especially in the North. With the COVID-19, we could not host the July meeting since they are operating at limited capacity to host.

#### **V. Flood Risk Assessment**

##### Presentation by Louisiana Watershed Initiative Team

- The link to the presentation is located [here](#).
- The link to the meeting recording is located [here](#).
- The Comments comments from the committee are available at [www.scpdc.org/watershed-initiative/](http://www.scpdc.org/watershed-initiative/)

Pat Gordon opened up for final public comment.

Beryl Gomez from PBCIA Group had a concerns on what has happened in the waterways along Belle River and Lake Verret. The gentleman from Iberville Parish spoke about the issues from Morganza to Bayou Bouef. Our goal as a group is looking at what has occurred in the last 5 years to have raised the water level that won't drop to the level that preceded those 5 year levels that has put all the properties at a higher risk that wasn't there before. The members of the group are life time multi generation residents that have knowledge of the waters. They know the waters are not getting out at Bayou Beuof. They suspect that projects may have had negative impact, not initially, and they feel the Bayou Chene project will not resolve the current impeding water flow. They are willing to work with anyone and look at the modeling and studies to see what can be done from the string from Morganza to Bayou Bouef that can correct the situation they are under.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 A.M by Earl Matherne and seconded by Andrew Barron.