

REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING #4 MINUTES

Date: July 22, 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 fourth 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, Andrew Barron, Maggie Talley, Amanda Voisin, Theo Sanders, Rickie Blink, Mark Ward, Earl Matherne, Marril McKarry, Devin Foil, Kasey Courville, Tim Matte, Mart Black, Kevin Durbin, Scott Saunier
 - Absent: John Boudreaux, John Clark
 - Other: Pat Gordon, Adam Lefort, Cassie Parker, Evelyn Campo, Risa Mueller, Ian Trahan, Miriam Belblindia, Mohamed A. Bagha, Cory Wilder, Bukky Esho, Michelle Gonzales, Tim Nelson, Ann Guissing, Morris Sade, Seneca Toussant, 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 Amanda Voisin. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

III. Project Inventory

Presentation by LWI Staff

- Pat Gordon went over the inventory list. He talked about the projects over the last meeting. He has noticed that people have been putting projects in the list. He handed it over Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) which Evelyn Campo started to go through the information for the survey. She started by going over the survey and noted that anyone

can add in projects and not just Regional Steering Committee (RSC) members. It shows as a directory of who the contact person is for each project. The list was originally formed by the projects that were submitted in Round 1 and were deemed eligible by OCD. She suggested that when naming the projects to use a short and easily identifiable name. She mentioned that you can add any conceptual or completed projects into the tool to see a more complete picture of the region. She mentioned to add where the funding comes from for each project. If you have any questions, let the Region 6 staff or LWI Staff know. She mentioned that this list isn't the same as Round I Funding, but something different. Kevin Durbin asked a questions if any Round 1 applications would not be on this inventory list. E. Campo said the list had pre-populated the inventory list from those applications. If there are any missing applications, let her know. K. Durbin wanted to make sure that the inventory includes all from the Round 1 funding for the decision to select projects in October. It was mentioned that his tool can and should be used past October and used after for the coalition. The Round 1 funding is a beginning point. Maggie Talley asked if you can go back and put information later if you do not have everything. E. Campo said the only information needed is highlighted with the red asterisk. E. Campo brought up that some projects may have multiple locations or purposes, and that some may not want to do a survey for each, so you can list it in the form. Kevin Durbin asked about the future of funding for the Round 1. E. Campo supplied information in the chat about the Round 1 funding with the \$5 million per region for the Round 1 funding. The pre application stage is over for Round 1. They are still waiting for agreement with HUD and the State. The list for the \$5 million will come from the leftover projects. Pat Gordon asked about any scoring criteria for the Round 1 funding that were unfunded. E. Campo said that the scoring information will be online, but there is not an actual guideline for RSC as of now to follow. The RSC will make a regional selections. K. Durbin asked if there is a way to change different colors from the wish list to the Round 1 funding.

IV. Model Engineering

Presentation by Ian Trahan

- P. Gordon introduced Ian Trahan, DOTD Modeling Engineer, and went over that the State has designated DOTD to do modeling and has broken down in 7 regions. He introduced himself and began by stating he wanted to be better intertwined with the RSC since they have not communicated much. He wanted to continue coordination with

the RSC and modeling consultants. The region 6 modeling consultant is Mohammad Bagha from Michael Baker International. He is a hydraulic engineer. He serves as the deputy project manager and modeling director for Region 6. The first task order should be executed in August/ September. The consultants will be getting with everyone to discuss any previous watershed studies, LiDar, survey data, historical flood information, etc. They will be doing modeling in each region. Region 6 Modeling contract covers RSC Region 6 and 8. The modeling efforts will be to create regional models that are able to be used by anyone across the state. The modeling efforts are divided into two series. The first 21 HUC 8's will begin this December/ January and finishes in January 2022. The remaining HUC's begin January 2021 and end November 2022. The regional project evaluation will take place from April 2022 to January 2023. The main purpose of this meeting was to introduce the consultants. M. Bagha went over the other staff on the call and little about his company. Mart Black had a question about the DOTD contract areas and why Region 6 is also with Region 8. I. Trahan responded that the State divided them into HUC 4/6. The goal of combining the Region 6 and 8 was because of a lot of bleed over and interaction into the basins with the same modeling efforts. A lot of Region 8 has limited land mass and it didn't make sense to have a different contract for that little work. Ian Trahan made a point to say they are just doing the modeling and doesn't have much to do with the RSC and decision they make. They are just making the models and will be public domain after and out of the picture within 5 years. Kevin Durbin had a question about what software was being used and asked about modeling of new development. I. Trahan said that several partners are involved and they use Corp's River Analyses Software and HEC-HMS. This area has a transition zone in it. They are working on a method of combining the ADCIRC model that analyzes surge and coastal areas and the riverine models to combine the two areas in our region to model the maximum affects the region can face.

V. Watershed Coalition Governance Structure

Presentation by Pat

- Pat Gordon went over the primary tasks for the RSC.
 1. Adopt a work plan
 2. Compile a prioritized project list
 3. Submit Round 1 award recommendations to OCD
 4. Select a governance model for Regional Watershed Coalition & consider watershed boundaries

- P. Gordon mentioned that the next meeting the LWI will be giving a presentation and exercise to go over the governance structure. The governance structure should be based on Accountability, Authority, and Decision-Making process. He asked for everyone to read the link provided to have a better understanding for the exercise next week.

VI. Committee Members Comments

Flood Risk Assessment

- Pat Gordon opened up for any questions from the previous meeting. There was none.

VII. Overview of Timeline

Round 1 Timeline

- HUD had not approved the grant agreement yet. Once it is approved, we will have 3 months to submit the full application and then a month later the State should decide on what projects are selected. During the pandemic, a lot of delays have been happening.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- October- Submit a "Regional Project Inventory" to LWI
- November- Provide preliminary recommendation on preferred coalition structure to LWI

Next Steps

- Plan next meeting for August 26, 2020. Should be in the same hybrid format.
- Plan next meeting
- Review and Refine Inventory List for regional projects
- Complete and circulate minutes
- Incorporate comments and corrections to meeting minutes
- Continue to discuss regional flood risk and vulnerabilities
- Continue to discuss Governance Structure

Upcoming Events

- September 14-17 - Managing Floodplain Development (LO273) through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- The LFMA Annual conference for September this year has been canceled. It has been set for Spring 2021



At this time, public comment was opened. There was none.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 A.M by Earl Matherne and seconded by Scott Saunier.