

REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING #5 MINUTES

Date: September 2, 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 fifth meeting of the Watershed Region 6 Steering Committee. Pat Gordon stated the purpose of the meeting with an overview of the meeting agenda.
- Roll Call
 - Present Committee Members (12/17): **John Boudreaux, Andrew Barron, Scott Saunier, Michelle Gonzales (Proxy for Maggie Talley), Amanda Voisin, Richie Blink, Mark Ward, Earl Matherne, Devin Foil, Tim Matte, Mart Black, Kevin Durbin,**
 - Absent: Theo Sanders, Mark Ward, Marrill McKarry, Kasey Courville, David Weil
 - Other: Pat Gordon, Adam Lefort, Evelyn Campo, Alex Carter, Seamus Riley, David Lessinger, Marvin McGraw, Jennifer Gerbasi, Hilda Lott, Chris Pulaski, Leroy Blanchard, Ann Guissiner, Ben Wicker, Eric Lundin, Beryl Gomez, Carol Aucoin, Lionel Lagarde, Brian Miles

II. Review and Adoption

Meeting Minutes

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

III. Project Inventory

Presentation by LWI Staff

- Pat Gordon briefly reminded the committee of the inventory list process. He said the survey was live and if anyone needs any assistance in inputting information, to contact him first and then LWI if the question is not resolved.

IV. Sub-Committee Update

Floodplain Managers Sub-Committee

- Adam Lefort went over the newly formed Floodplain Managers sub-committee. The group is comprised of the floodplain managers of the 16 parishes and kicked off on August 11, 2020. The meeting served to introduce members to the Committee, go over the LWI goals, go over FPM and Outreach goals for Region 6, and start an open discussion of best practices and changes to the upcoming CRS Manual.
- A. Lefort also mentioned about selecting 3 members form the steering committee to attend a FEMA training to be Certified Floodplain Managers. Pat Gordon mentioned to go out and try to get a CFM from each of the Parishes that currently do not have any CFM in our region.

V. Watershed Coalition Governance Structure

Presentation by Louisiana Watershed Initiative

- Alex Carter and David Lessinger from LWI went over a presentation/ exercise to start the discussion of the Governance Structure. It was based on feedback from the committee from the flood risk discussion and a survey previously sent out to the committee members. A copy of the presentation and comments from the meeting can be found [here](#).

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.
- Carol Aucoin from Assumption Parish made a comment about being the most successful about working collectively. She gave an example of St Mary Parish of diverting flood waters from Atchafalaya and protecting Assumption, St. Mary, St. Martin, Terrebonne, and Lafourche. The Parish has to pay a certain amount to help maintain that structure and there are so many Parishes that border the waters can work collectively to help resolve drainage issues. She lives on Bell River and lives across from Iberia, St. Martin, St. Mary. If they work collectively to dredge the Bell River, they can help solve flooding issues. She mentioned that they pay so much money for flood insurance and should be used to dredge Bell River and it can part of a solution.
- Andrew Barron added from a water quality perspective. When you move from upper region to down into Old Mississippi Floodplain, there is persistent problems with drainage for the communities. The immediate response is to go into dredging, but part of the drainage problems we are seeing are related to the geology of the State. Subsidence is a big problem for the coastal communities. When collecting data on the hydrology moving forward, we need to be careful and clear on what the result of dredging will be. Dredging will improve

drainage one way, but will go the other way. They need to improve the bidirectional flow of problems when looking at hydrology. Water goes both ways. He gave the example of Baker Canal in Lafourche.

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.

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 September 23, 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)

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 A.M by Amanda Voison and seconded by Earl Matherne