

REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING #6 MINUTES

Date: September 23, 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 sixth 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 (13/17): **Andrew Barron, Michelle Gonzales (Proxy for Maggie Talley), Amanda Voisin, Mark Ward, Earl Matherne, Devin Foil, Tim Matte, Mart Black, Kevin Durbin, Theo Sanders, Kasey Courville, Marrill McKarry, David Weil**
 - Absent: John Boudreaux, Scott Saunier, Richie Blink, John Clark
 - Other: Pat Gordon, Adam Lefort, Seamus Riley, Jennifer Gerbasi, Hilda Lott, Chris Pulaski, Leroy Blanchard, Ann Guissiner, Beryl Gomez, Brian Miles, Ian Trahan, Steve Swygert, Deshanda Firmin, Kenneth St. Germain. Mohamed Bagha, Jie Gu, Edward Stock, Jenny Schexnayder, Gary Watson, Jeffery Henry, Donald Ray Henry, Ivy Chauvin, Kyle Galloway, Oneil Malbrough, Eric Matherne, James Jasmin, Larry Sorapurv, Henry Picard, Matthew Martinec

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 Michelle Gonzales. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

III. Project Inventory

Overview by Pat Gordon

- Pat Gordon briefly reminded the committee of the inventory list process. Round 1 Funding Opportunity has been opened as of September 18. 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. He then went over the HUD announcements and important dates that are mentioned later in the minutes. All the information is available on Louisiana Watershed Website. K. Durbin asked to clarify the Steering Committee's role in the Round 1. M. Black responded that in June, the Steering Committee will make recommendations on projects to fund the \$5 million.

IV. Watershed Coalition Governance Structure

Presentation by Louisiana Watershed Initiative

- Pat Gordon mentioned that the 2nd Governance Exercise will be conducted by LWI Staff at the October Meeting

V. Sub-Committee Update

Floodplain Managers Sub-Committee

- Adam Lefort went over the newly formed Floodplain Managers sub-committee. The group is having its next meeting on September 28, 2020. 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 from the steering committee to attend a FEMA training to be Certified Floodplain Managers. It is important to try to get a CFM from each of the Parishes that currently do not have any CFM in our region. The scheduled training had been postponed due to a hurricane, so when the new dates are in we will reach out to the members.

VI. Statewide Modeling Effort

Presentation by DOTD

- Ian Trahan introduced himself and gave a brief summary of what his duties are with DOTD and introduced Jie Gu who will also be working with him with DOTD. He is trying to find the missing data gaps and is reaching out to the Steering Committees. He then handed it over to Mohamed Bagha to present to the committee.
- M. Bagha went over the Michael Baker International, Inc Team and the LWI Modeling Area 6 representatives and team. He then went to compare the region to the others and explained that Region 6 and 8 are combined for the Modeling Area 6 based off of 6 HUC-8 watershed. They want to make they are reaching out to stakeholders in the region for best data coordination.
- M. Black asked about Hydrology and Hydraulic modeling. Ian Trahan explained the Hydrologic Modeling takes the rainfall data that is fed from Hydraulic model. The Hydrologic model produces rain falls that is fed into the Hydraulic Model
- Matt Martinec from the City of Gretna was curious areas within the storm damage and risk reduction around urbanized area in New Orleans. It looks like some watershed cross boundaries and he was wondering how the State is intending to approach. I. Trahan responded that they are modeling at the HUC-8 level. They will include drainage areas of HUC -12. He knows there will be bleed over from one HUC to another. He explained that is the reason they have 6 and 8 combined. He explained that this is when he gets information from Coast River Flooding. It is important to have one team looking at the modeling efforts for that bleed over. HUC- 4 level is where the regions were defined. M. Martinec clarified that the HUC 8 allows to have the have cross boundary compared to the River but can have more analysis to go into HUC-23. I. Trahan said the modeling will be able to handle the streams and be able to pull out the models and a future phase can go in deeper.
- M. Gonzales had a follow up question and asked if there will be modeling within the HUC-8 System. I. Trahan explained all is modeled in the region except modeling of the Mississippi itself. Active LOMR process, will that be collected to incorporate in the models. Ian said that this will not have any effect on LOMR or BFE.

VII. Engineering Reports

Presentation by GIS Engineers

- Kyle Galloway from GIS Engineering went over a presentation about the Upper Barataria Risk Reduction Project they are working on. This project is to help reduce flooding in 6 of the 16 Parishes in Region 6. The Upper Barataria Basin Risk Reduction (UBBRR) Project provides hurricane storm damage risk reduction for portions of 6 Coastal Louisiana Parishes through 32.4 miles of levees, flood walls, and flood gates spanning from Bayou Lafourche to the West Bank & Vicinity Project. The project is included in the CPRA Coastal Master Plan. They are looking to fund the Bayou Des Allemand Flood Gate through LWI Funding. They submitted in Round 1 funding for Funding of Final Design fees and for the Funding for Construction of required levee tie-ins. They are asking for the Region 6 Steering Committee to fund if the State declines.
- M. Black asked how high flood gate is to the mean water rise. K Galloway said the height of the floodwall right now is 15 and the water level is around .5 so 14.5 feet above. The project is being revisited by the Corps. They are expecting a report this fall and the elevation might be lowered in the analysis. The 15 feet is based off Corps and CPRA. M. Black asked about surge, and was responded that most plans are 12.5 and now are looking at 15 feet. Earl Matherne said the highest records was a hair under 6 feet from Hurricane Juan.
- Ian Trahan asked that since the Corps did the original analysis without rainfall if they coupled the riverine and ADCIRC model. K Galloway responded that he was not sure, but will get in touch to answer the question because he does not want to get it wrong. He will send what he has from Arcadis, Water Institute, and CPRA who handled the modeling. Earl Matherne added that St. Charles has done the modeling in the past and ran it through the Surge Modeling and ADCIRC over the past 7 years and sent to CPRA, so they have that data, but the Corps does not from the last run. They should have it now and the next run should have everything. I. Trahan wanted to follow up from Mohammed that the transition zone is taking the riverine modeling with the Surge ADCIRC modeling to do a coupling of the data to use to simulate rainfall from the northern basin and the surge to examine the worst case situation.

VIII. 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.

- Beryl Gomez had a couple of comments. She sked that as the RSC considers the projects from the inventory list clearly show data and impacts to the Belle River and basins, in addition to the data of project area. The area seems to be left out in some of the data and need to show the data across political boundaries. She wants to make sure no projects cause flooding elsewhere or impacts on tourism, property damage, etc. For her area, she knows that from Jan 1, 2018, they have dealt with flood level waters 40% of the time and no community should be dealing with that. She did state that Bayou Chene closures did a phenomenal job controlling the water levels. So the corps data and analyzing is good for the future. She did state that some projects on the inventory list may have a negative impact on her area and would like to see more data on them on the impact. The projects are 7,8,18,25,26,30, and 31 from Inventory list and CRPA master projects Atchafalaya River Diversion, Increase of Atchafalaya Flow to Terrebonne, and Amelia Levee Improvements Projects. Regarding Governance, she wants to suggest consideration of public members on the board to help validate some assumptions of projects on the people who live there. In the data modeling, she hopes they everyone assesses totally Region 6 for all data. When looking at data from Pointe Coupee down, there is little data. She is hoping the modeling will develop some and she see how critical the data is.

IX. Overview of Timeline

Round 1 Timeline

- HUD approved the grant agreement on September 18. The deadline to submit project applications is on January 22, 2021, Awards announced for \$60 million in statewide projects in March 2021, and Regional selection recommendations are due to OCD in June 2021.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- October- Submit a “Regional Project Inventory” to LWI
- Within the next 6 Months- Provide preliminary recommendation on preferred coalition structure to LWI

Next Steps

- Plan next meeting for October 28, 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

- Rescheduled - Managing Floodplain Development (L0273) through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 A.M by Earl Matherne and seconded by Marrill McKarry