

REGION 6 FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS SUB-COMMITTEE

MEETING #1 MINUTES

Date: August 11, 2020 **Time:** 10:30-12:00pm

Location: South Central Planning and Development Commission Video Conferencing

Call to Order – 10:35 by Adam Lefort

I. Welcome

- Adam Lefort welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Watershed Region 6 Floodplain Managers Sub Committee. Adam Lefort stated the purpose of the meeting with an overview of the meeting agenda.
- Roll Call
 - Present Committee Members (10/16): **Marcia Shivers, Charlene Picard, John Clark (proxy for Brian Romero), Michelle Gonzales (Proxy for Maggie Talley), Darla Duet, Devin Foil, Claire Darby, Tammy A. Luke, Lisa Ledet, Kevin Durbin**
 - Absent: John Boudreaux, Jerome Landry, Mike Metcalf, Nathan Cobb, Danielle Honor Young, Marrill McKarry
 - Other: Pat Gordon, Adam Lefort, Evelyn Campo, Risa Mueller, Cindy O'Neal, Scott Saunier

II. Meeting Procedures and Goals

Open Meeting

- Adam Lefort went over the open meeting regulations.

Program Background

- Adam Lefort went over the Program Background of the Watershed Initiative. He explained that this is a sub-committee of the Steering Committee and some members sit on both. After the Great Floods of 2016, Gov Edwards charged state agencies to coordinate statewide flood risk management efforts through a watershed approach. There are 16 parishes that represent Region 6. The Steering Committee is in the process of selecting projects and creating a governance structure. He stated that this subcommittee is more long term that will extend beyond the Steering Committee.

III. Regional Steering Committee Introductions

Staff Goals

- Adam Lefort went over year 1, 2, and 3 goals as the Floodplain Manager and Outreach Coordinator.
- The goals as Floodplain Manager are:
 - Develop listing of all CFM's in Watershed 6 Region, Develop working committee of CFM's, Establish a Regional CRS Program, Assist communities with entering and/or advancing in the CRS Program, Assist Communities with CRS with Regional Coordinator, Assist Communities with CRS with Regional Coordinator, Provide CFM and CRS training, Develop Benefit/Cost to enter CRS, Facilitate the preparation of a Program for Public Information within the region, Leverage existing efforts and funding sources to continue to improve CRS standing for parishes and municipalities within the region, Manage recordkeeping for CRS compliance purposes as needed for parishes or municipalities in the region, Administer CRS PPI if necessary, Provide assistance with cycle verification and recertification, Train staff and implement best practices within existing floodplain management procedures, Assist parish and municipal staff with floodplain permitting as needed, Facilitate community engagement as needed for CRS and risk communication purposes, Identify and/or secure long-term funding and staff capacity to provide CRS services in the region
- The goals as Outreach Coordinator are:
 - Homeowner Flood Risk Counseling, Set up LWI Office in Region, Interacting with the public regarding best practices for floodplain management, Assist with Grant Applications, Encourage continuing education hours or certifications awarded to parish, municipal or regional staff, Assist with Grant Applications, Conduct Community risk education, Encourage continuing education hours or certifications awarded to parish, municipal or regional staff, Promote continuing education hours or certifications to local professionals, Create outreach procedures to facilitate inclusion of attendees at events, Encourage and/or facilitate community-oriented events
- Pat Gordon went over his year 1 goals as the Watershed Coordinator. He also stated that we are one of the only groups to address Floodplain Management outside of the watershed initiative. They are to Establish Steering Committee, Decide on coalition structure, Draft Watershed Project List, Develop working relationship with all 16 Parishes, Manage notice procedures for all public meetings, and administer the approved regional steering committee work plan.

- Adam Lefort introduced Louisiana Watershed Initiative staff to introduce themselves. Evelyn Campo with OCD, Rise Mueller with Franklin Associates, and Cindy O’Neal with DOTD/NFIP introduced themselves.

Committee Introductions

Adam Lefort allowed time for each committee member present to give a little background about themselves and their roles as the Floodplain Manager for their Parish and whether are not they are in the CRS System or a CFM.

- o Marcia Shivers, Ascension Parish, CFM, CRS Class 8
- o Charlene Picard, Iberia Parish, CFM, Not CRS
- o John Clark (proxy for Brian Romero) , Iberville Parish, Not CRS
- o Michelle Gonzales (Proxy for Maggie Talley), Jefferson Parish, CFM, CRS Class 5
- o Darla Duet, Lafourche Parish, CFM, Not CRS
- o Devin Foil, St. John Parish CFM, CRS Class 8
- o Claire Darby, St. Martin Parish, CFM, Not CRS
- o Tammy A. Luke, St. Mary Parish, not CFM, Not CRS
- o Lisa Ledet, Terrebonne Parish, CFM, CRS Class 7
- o Kevin Durbin, West Baton Rouge Parish, No CFM, CRS Class 8

IV. Sub-Committee Orientation

RCBG Program Goals

- Adam Lefort went over the Regional Capacity Building Grant Program goals that were in the application that are related to Floodplain Management. They are:
 - Assess all parishes for Floodplain Management personnel and existing storm water design criteria for proposed subdivisions, drainage projects and commercial/industrial building permits.
 - Provide educational floodplain management seminars, workshops and webinars.
 - Maximize CRS and NFIP participation and enable watershed-based development review in all parishes.
 - Encourage all parishes to participate in CRS by presenting savings to Flood Insurance Policy holders and lowering their flood risk in the process.
 - Provide technical assistance in amending Flood Maps for areas impacted by completed drainage projects.
 - Increase the number of Flood Insurance policy holders by providing outreach material at permitting office and public places as well as presenting at public meetings.

- Develop and have adopted ordinances that will reduce flood risk in each of the parishes in line with the modeling developed in each of the Watershed Regions.
- Incorporate “Best Practices” of Floodplain Management in all Watershed 6 Parishes Hazard Mitigation Plans.

Expectation for Subcommittee Members

- Represent values, contribute expertise and express short and long-terms concerns of stakeholder groups represented
- Attend meetings
- Meeting “readiness”
- Understand the challenges in their region and/or parish/jurisdiction
- Questions and Answers

Addendum to CRS Coordinators Manual

- Adam Lefort mentioned that beginning in January 2021, CRS communities will be implementing their programs in accord with both the 2021 Addendum and the 2017 Coordinator’s Manual. This addendum will require a CRS community to enforce at least 1 foot of freeboard for all new and substantially improved residential buildings in its numbered A and V Zones in order to become (or remain) a CRS Class 8 or better community. Communities that do not implement freeboard will be limited to a CRS Class 9 rating.

Committee Member Discussion

- Adam Lefort opened it up for Committee Member to bring up any questions or concerns they want to address. The goal of this working committee is to work together as a collective bounce off ideas and concerns a community may have to help address and reduce flood risks. Pat Gordon mentioned that a good example of assisting is that SCPDC can put together a template to help adopt the freeboard addendum for the community to adopt. We can present to the Parishes about the CRS program. Cindy O’ Neal would like to offer any assistance that their office can provide with CRS. She can put you in touch with the regional coordinator for region 6. She encouraged to join the LFM. She also highly suggested to considered fill restrictions when adopting the freeboard. Every fill added to the floodplain pushed the water to the as built structures. Michelle Gonzales mentioned that they are working on several things to meet the pre requisites for class 4. One thing up in the air is the amendment to manual that is coming out and as a group to keep an eye out for it for any changes. Pat Gordon mentioned that a few

parishes are having CAV problems. SCPDC is willing to work with those parishes for any assistance with compliance. Michelle Gonzales asked if incorporated municipalities were invited in the group. Adam Lefort said they are not on the committee, but it is an open meeting. Pat mentioned there a lot parishes in the Region 6. We can start pulling in the communities once we are better established. We can still help them with CRS. There are 43 parishes/municipalities in the region. Devin Foil asked about how the outreach for the Freeboard Ordinance was presented for those who have adopted it. E. Baton Rouge had the ordinance passed and no net fill. Ascension and St. Martin have adopted a 1 or 2 foot freeboard. Ascension went from a 1 foot to 2 foot in 2016 to match the HUD requirements. St. Martin has one foot free board and they posted in the local newspaper, handed out flyers and information packet with all construction permits, and contacted all surveyors in the area and notified them of the changes. Cindy O'Neal suggested to reach out to user groups like FLOAT, JUMP, and CRAFT if you have any questions about fill etc. Michelle Gonzales mentioned that in Jefferson they reached out to homebuilders association and got them on board and saw the benefit, it was easier to pass. Cindy O'Neal mentioned it can cut flood insurance in half after Devin Foil mentioned some pushback. Evelyn Campo was interested in seeing the need of predictability in Ascension for adopting the 2 foot freeboard. Marcia Shivers mentioned that they used to have the 1 foot freeboard but still had inches of flooding. She said it was better to have it in case they have that type of event again. Pat Gordon mentioned that some parishes have appealed the flood maps and how there might be some pushback if those go higher with the additional free board. Darla Duet said that COVID-19 stopped everything and FEMA is hiring to make new maps. She mentioned in Lafourche that the new maps will actually lower. Plaquemines just got their letter of determination to have their maps effective in January 2021. Lafourche was hoping to have adopted maps by the end of 2020, but won't be until later next year.

V. Overview of Timeline

Next Steps

- Plan next meeting
- Complete and circulate minutes
- Create goals and work plan

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

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 A.M.