

REGION 6 STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING # 19 MINUTES

Date: April 27, 2022 Time 10:00-12:00

Location: South Central Planning and Development Commission Video Conferencing

Call to Order – 10:05 by Mart Black, Chairman

I. **Welcome:**

- Mart Black welcomed everyone to the nineteenth meeting of the Watershed Region 6 Steering Committee. Pat Gordon stated the purpose of the meeting with an overview of the meeting agenda. A video of the meeting can be found [here](#).
- Roll Call:
Present Committee Members (12/17)- David Weil, John Boudreaux, Andrew Barron, Jason Smith (for Michelle Gonzales), Amanda Voisin, Theo Sanders, Mark Ward, Hilda Hote, Earl Matherne, Tara Lambeth, Kevin Durbin & Mart Black.
Absent: Scott Saunier, Tim Matte, Kasey Courville & Marril McKarry.
Other: Pat Gordon, Josh Manning, Valarie Black, Ruth Phillips

- **Review and Adoption**

II. **Meeting Minutes**

- Mart Black went over the minutes from last meeting of February 23, 2022
- A motion to accept the minutes was made by Kevin Durbin and seconded by Amanda Voisin with the condition to change 2021 to 2022. Minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

III. **Watershed Legislation Overview**

Valarie Black with The Water Institute provided a presentation regarding the Watershed Legislation but also included Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) timeline from 2013 to current Legislation status. Since the LWI was created only by Executive Order legislation will need to be passed for it to continue into the next Administration. Valarie provided the legislative framework, summary of roles and responsibilities, management, membership of the Watershed Council. Chairman Black asked what impact this would have on the State budget. Valarie indicated that most of the funding would be coming from Federal Disaster Recovery Grants. John Clark asked if there is an opportunity for local governments to be part of the LWI Council or Coalition. John also asked what a political subdivision is and how does

this legislation address regarding the ability to pass taxes, create regulation, and enforce those regulations. Chairman Mart Black indicated that representation at the local level will be addressed with the development of the Coalition. He further clarified that legislation would need to be specifically passed for the Coalition to have additional authority.

IV. Outreach Efforts for Legislation

Pat Gordon provided the outreach material that was sent out previously with talking points that could be used for information purposes. Most importantly it describes what the legislation does not allow the Coalition to perform. Pat read most of this to the Steering Committee. John Clark, once again had concerns with the term "Political Subdivision". Ruth Phillips from Ascension Parish expressed her concerns as well. Chairman Black indicated that there needs to be some clarification on this matter and requested staff to provide information regarding this matter.

V. No Subcommittee Reports

VI. Coalition Development

Pat Gordon explained that the MPO framework has worked very well in our region and could be utilized on a larger scale for the Coalition. One member from each Parish to make up the Policy Committee and the Technical Advisory Committees could be made up of staff and professional engineers. Pat also explained that the two parishes that only had small portions of their Parish in Region 6 could be nonvoting members, but the boundaries would remain the same.

VII. No Comments from Public

IX. Key Dates would consist of Legislation submittal and introduction to the Senate. Currently in the Senate Finance Committee.

X. Next meeting location will be in West Baton Rouge Parish. In person meeting has been scheduled.

XI. Adjourn

Motion by Amanda Voisin, seconded by John Boudreaux to adjourn. Unanimously approved!