

LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE
REGION 4 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE REGION 4 REGIONAL STEERING
COMMITTEE

JANUARY 15, 2020

5:30 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mr. Alberto Galan called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Miles Hebert (Cameron Parish), Steve Brown (Desoto Parish), Jacob Marceaux, (Beauregard Parish), Carl Thompson (Vernon Parish), Alberto Galan (Calcasieu Parish), Matt Johns (Rapides Parish), John Marceaux (Jeff Davis Parish), Gardner Rose (Coushatta Tribe)

Not Present: William Ruffin (Sabine Parish)

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Jacob Marceaux led the Invocation.

Mr. Alberto Galan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Take appropriate action to introduce Region 4 Regional Steering Committee Members and the election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2020.

A motion to appoint Mr. Alberto Galan as Chair of the Region 4 Steering Committee for 2020 was made by Mr. Miles Hebert and seconded by Mr. John Marceaux, and the motion result was Passed.

A motion to appoint Mr. Jacob Marceaux as Vice Chair of the Region 4 Steering Committee for 2020 was made by Mr. Miles Hebert and seconded by Mr. John Marceaux, and the motion result was Passed.

5. Take appropriate action of adopting a resolution of organization for board structure and affairs for meetings and business.

Discussion: Mr. Steve Brown had a question regarding the point of contact which Mr. Alberto Galan stated that it is addressed in item 6A. He then clarified that each RSC member could appoint a 2nd person to receive the information distributed to the RSC members by the Fiscal Agent and that they would not have any additional responsibilities.

A motion to approve the resolution of organization for board structure and affairs for meetings and business was made by Mr. Jacob Marceaux and seconded by Mr. Matt Johns, and the motion result was Passed.

6. Take appropriate action of adopting a resolution approving the following:
 - a. Approving/Ratifying the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between all Parishes in Region 4, which establishes the Regional Steering Committee that serves on behalf of all Parishes in Region 4, and the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury for the purpose of the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury serving as fiscal agent relative to funding, including grant funding, received as part of the State of Louisiana Watershed Initiative; and supporting the watershed region management activities in conjunction with the State of Louisiana Watershed Initiative, and any other activities related to thereon.
 - b. Approving and adopting the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury's Procurement Policy for any procurement related activities of Region 4 Regional Steering Committee.
 - c. Approving and adopting the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury's Grant's Manual for any grant related activities of the Region 4 Regional Steering Committee.

Discussion: Mr. Matt Johns had questions regarding Calcasieu Parish Police Jury following 2 CFR Part 200 requirements. Jennifer Cobian with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury confirmed the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury does comply with 2 CFR Part 200.

Mr. Steve Brown had questions regarding Calcasieu Parish Police Jury's Procurement Policy, specifically procuring professional services without price as a factor. Jennifer Cobian, with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, confirmed that while the acronyms are different, we do follow procurement procedures according to local, state, and federal regulations. Nicolette with the State stated that they will be regularly minoritizing our policies and procedures to make sure they are in compliance with 2 CFR Part 200.

A Motion to approve items 6a, 6b, and 6c was made by Mr. Matt Johns and seconded by Mr. Steve Brown and the motion result was Passed.

7. Take appropriate action of adopting a resolution approving the meeting calendar for 2020.

A motion to approve the Region 4 Regional Steering Committee meeting calendar for 2020 was made by Mr. John Marceaux and seconded by Mr. Jacob Marceaux and the motion result was Passed.

8. Receive report from Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Staff regarding an update and overview of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

Jennifer Cobian with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury gave presentation on the Louisiana Watershed Initiative Region 4 Update. The presentation discussed the Regional Capacity Building Grant and Round 1 Funding grant, as well as their corresponding budgets, third party consultants, project timelines, and grant application due dates.

Discussions: Mr. Jacob Marceaux and Jennifer Cobian regarding third party consultant's scope of work. Mr. Jacob Marceaux asked if the third party consultant will be able to assist with the future grant applications and Jennifer Cobian stated that there is an Education and Outreach part of the project scope that would allow the consultant to provide the region an overview of CDBG grants and point a parish in the right direction for getting started on preparing grant applications.

Mr. Steve Brown asked if the contract would come through the RSC. Jennifer Cobian stated yes, all parts of the procurement from scope of work through entering into the contract would be approved by the RSC.

Discussions: Nicolette with the State clarified the purpose of the RCBG and Round 1 Funding – CDBD- MIT grants as well as expectations and timelines.

Discussions regarding current Region 4 Regional Steering Committee's purpose versus the future Watershed Coalition's purpose, make-up, funding, and legislation needed going forward

Motion to receive report made by Mr. Jacob Marceaux and seconded by Mr. Matt Johns and the motion result was Passed.

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9. General discussions of project application submittals for Round 1 funding under the Louisiana Watershed Initiative:

Allen Parish – Submitting approximately five to seven projects dealing with local buyouts of subdivision, Address crawfish fields drainage issues, and drainage canals.

Beauregard Parish – Submitting approximately two projects dealing with resizing culverts and buyouts properties located in Allen and Vernon Parish. Discussions regarding splitting 5 million between each parish.

Calcasieu Parish – Sorting through projects submitted by local drainage districts dealing with expanding lateral sizes, capacity and upsizing of culverts. Another project being considered is a conservation easement near Calcasieu Point.

Cameron Parish – Submitting approximately two projects dealing with reducing water levels on the Mermentau River and addressing Hwy 82 Flood relief in Grand Lake.

DeSoto Parish – No projects so far.

Jeff Davis Parish – Submitting approximately two projects. Water holding devices in crawfish fields and partnering with Calcasieu Parish on a project.

Rapides – Approximately fifteen to eighteen total projects dealing with parish wide buyout and elevation programs that are low to moderate income homes. Also looking at projects focusing on roadway flooding.

Sabine Parish – Not present

Vernon Parish – Buyouts for repetitive loss properties and upsizing culverts.

Coushatta Tribe – Planning on working on a project with Beauregard Parish and cleaning up local gullies.

10. Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Miles Hebert and seconded by Mr. Jacob Marceaux. Meeting adjourned.