

LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE  
REGION 4 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING

March 2, 2020

10:30 AM

**MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Alberto Galan called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Jason Hebert, Mr. Jacob Marceaux, Mr. Alberto Galan, Mr. Myles Hebert, Mr. Gardner Rose, Mr. Steve Brown, Mr. Matt Johns, Mr. William Ruffin, Mr. Carl Thompson, and Ms. Kara Bonsall (voted in item 7)

Not Present: Mr. John Marceaux

Others Present: Terry Frelot (Calcasieu Parish), Amber Downs (Calcasieu Parish), Natasha Willis (Calcasieu Parish), Brad Spiegel (LA OCD), Tom Fontcuberta (DeSoto Parish) Heidi Stewart (NLCOG), and Lisa Frazier (NLCOG)

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Jacob Marceaux led the Invocation.

Mr. Alberto Galan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Consideration of approving the minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Region 4 Regional Steering Committee dated January 27, 2020.

Discussion: Mr. Jacob Marceaux asked to amend item #6 of the January 27, 2020 Regional 4 Region Steering Committee meeting minutes to clarify his comments regarding statewide policy, guidance, and governance.

A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Mr. Matt Johns and seconded by Mr. Myles Hebert, and the motion result was Passed.

5. Discussion regarding nominations to serve as a Region 4 Regional Steering Committee in accordance with the request for changes to the composition of the Region 4 Regional Steering Committee by the Louisiana Office of Community Development.

Discussions: Mr. Jacob Marceaux suggested Kaylyn Partin, a Hydraulic Engineer with the DOTD. Mr. Alberto Galan nominated Kara Bonsall with the Cameron Parish Police Jury. Mr. Myles Hebert discussed Ms. Kara Bonsall's coastal experience and qualifications. Mr. Steve Brown did not have a formal nomination but would like to see someone with a multi-parish representation. Mr. Matt Johns did not have a formal nomination but would like to possibly reach out to the Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Alberto Galan asked Mr. William Ruffin there is anyone from the Sabine Regional Authority SRA that would meet the diversity requirements. Mr. Ruffin did not know one of anyone that would meet the diversity requirements from the SRA.

6. Take appropriate action where needed to change the composition of the Region 4 Regional Steering Committee.

No Action Required.

7. Take appropriate action where needed on nominations by the Region 4 Regional Steering Committee.

A motion to nominate Ms. Kara Bonsall as a member of the Region 4 Regional Steering Committee was made by Mr. Alberto Galan and seconded by Ms. Jacob Marceaux and it passed unanimously.

Discussion: Mr. Steve Brown asked Ms. Bonsall's experience with northern parishes. Ms. Bonsall shared her experience having a camp on Toledo Bend. Mr. Jacob Marceaux discussed her knowledge with LWI from the beginning. Mr. Myles Hebert expanded on her familiarity with coastal zone issues and affairs.

Yeas: Mr. Jason Hebert, Mr. Myles Hebert, Mr. Gardner Rose, Mr. Steve Brown, Mr. Matt Johns, Mr. William Ruffin, and Mr. Carl Thompson

8. Receive any available update from OCD.

Mr. Brad Spiegel with OCD stated by the next Region 4 Regional Steering Committee meeting work plan and drafted agendas for all the 2020 meetings. The state received 404 Round 1 pre-applications. The Round 1 application timeline has been pushed back but is not yet finalized. The state anticipates providing an updated timeline within the next few weeks. Mr. Jacob Marceaux asked for clarification on how the Regions are going to be notified. Mr. Brad Spiegel anticipates letters sent out via email.

Discussion: Mr. Jacob Marceaux made a motion to add an agenda item requesting a resolution be sent to OCD requesting a representative of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry be added to the Council on Watershed Management.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Johns and it passed unanimously.

Yeas: Mr. Jason Hebert, Mr. Myles Hebert, Mr. Alberto Galan, Mr. Gardner Rose, Mr. Steve Brown, Mr. William Ruffin, Mr. Carl Thompson, and Ms. Kara Bonsall

9. Consideration of adopting a resolution requesting a representative of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture Forestry be added to the Council on Watershed Management

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Jacob Marceaux and seconded by Mr. Steve Brown, and the motion result was Passed.

Discussion: Mr. Steve Brown suggested notifying each region of the resolution and request that LADF be added to the Council on Watershed Management Committee. Discussion of an Advisory Board being created as well, but no action was taken.

10. General discussion or update from each parish and tribe, if any, regarding this initiative and project, infrastructure, modeling, or other identified needs that exist within each Parish to begin goal and priority setting for Region 4.

Allen Parish – No update

Beauregard Parish – Mr. Jacob Marceaux stated that Beauregard plans to vote in May to pass drainage tax.

Calcasieu Parish – Mr. Alberto made a presentation created by Fenstermaker on Calcasieu's Watershed Master Plan. Ms. Natasha Willis gave an update on the Regional Capacity Building Grant. Mr. Brad Spiegel with OCD stated that Region 4 submitted 23 pre-applications worth 80 million dollars.

Cameron Parish – Ms. Kara Bonsall stated LWI has a rain gauge webinar on 3/6/2020.

Coushatta Tribe – No update.

DeSoto Parish – Mr Steve Brown would like to see updated FIRMs. Mr. Tom Fontcuberta will be acting as Mr. Steve Brown's proxy.

Jeff Davis Parish – Not present.

Rapides Parish – Mr. Matt Johns stated Rapides Parish has a 1.4-million-dollar contract with the DOTD to do watershed modeling for the metropolitan planning area.

Sabine Parish – No update

Vernon Parish – No update

Discussion: Mr. Jacob Marceaux wants the Region 4 Regional Steering Committee to discuss at the next meeting about having more of a representation with the Sabine River Authority.

#### 11. Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Matt Johns and seconded by Mr. Myles Hebert. Meeting adjourned.