

# Region 4 Regional Steering Committee Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

DATE: June 15, 2020

TIME: 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

ATTENDEES		
Alex Carter, OCD	Natasha Willis, Calcasieu Parish	Matt Weigel, LDWF (Zoom Call)
Brad Spiegel, OCD	Amber Downs, Calcasieu Parish	Michael Seymour, LDWF (Zoom Call)
Evelyn Campo, OCD (Zoom Call)	John Marceaux, Jeff Davis Parish	Sarabeth Klueh-Mundy, LDWF (Zoom Call)
Ann Guissinger, OCD (Zoom Call)	Jacob Marceaux, Beauregard Parish	Justin Kozak, CPEX (Zoom Call)
Nicolette Jones, OCD (Zoom Call)	Myles Hebert, Cameron Parish	Heidi Stewart, NLCOG – Region 1 (Zoom Call)
Ben Wicker, OCD (Zoom Call)	Kara Bonsall, Cameron Parish	Jeffery Giering, GOHSEP (Zoom Call)
Marvin McGraw, OCD (Zoom Call)	Tom Fontcuberta, Desoto Parish	Christopher Olvey, GOHSEP (Zoom Call)
Janice Lovett, OCD (Zoom Call)	Matt Johns, Rapides Parish	Ian Trahan, DOTD (Zoom Call)
Miriam Belblidia, Arcadis	Alex Guillory, Blue Wing Civil	Jie Gu, DOTD (Zoom Call)
Kimberly Heise, CSRS	Mike Polk, GDD2 East W3	Ed Knight, DOTD (Zoom Call)
Alberto Galan, Calcasieu Parish	Robert Goodson, GDD2 East W3	Jeanne Hornsby, Fenstermaker (Zoom Call)
Jennifer Cobian, Calcasieu Parish	Sean Kinney, LDWF	Dax Douet, Fenstermaker (Zoom Call)
Terry Frelot, Calcasieu Parish	Robby Maxwell, LDWF (Zoom Call)	Callie Benton, Fenstermaker (Zoom Call)

ACTION ITEMS		
Individual(s)	Item	Due Date
RSC	Complete Take-Home Map Exercise	6/29/2020

### MEETING SUMMARY:

#### Introductions (Alberto Galan, Calcasieu Parish):

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
- Consideration of approving the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Region 4 Regional Steering Committee dated March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020
  - Motion – Myles Hebert (Cameron Parish)
  - Second – Matt Johns (Rapides Parish)

- Consideration and take appropriate action on a revised regular meeting schedule for the Region 4 Steering Committee
  - Motion – Matt Johns (Rapides Parish)
  - Second – Jacob Marceaux (Beauregard Parish)

#### **Region 4 Flood Risk Presentation (Alex Carter, OCD):**

- **Objective:** Build an understanding of known flood risks, vulnerabilities, and priorities in Region 4
- **Flood Risk Assessment:** To understand risks and to prioritize solutions, we must accomplish the following:
  - Build a common vocabulary
  - Consider various risk factors
  - Work with nature
- There are 11 parishes that make up Region 4: Caddo Parish, Desoto Parish, Sabine Parish, Natchitoches Parish, Vernon Parish, Rapides Parish, Beauregard Parish, Allen Parish, Calcasieu Parish, Jefferson Davis Parish, and Cameron Parish.
- There are 2 watersheds that form Region 4:
  - **Sabine Watershed:** This watershed is from Texas, and contains one of the largest man-made reservoirs in the Southern United States (Toledo Bend)
  - **Calcasieu Watershed:** The Calcasieu River is fed by smaller tributaries. Since the watershed is smaller than the Sabine Watershed, it makes it harder to predict how water will move
- We must consider all types of flood risks to effectively manage flood risks in Region 4.
- There has been significant investment by the state for coastal and inland areas
  - Coastal Masterplan 2023: goal is to reduce coastal flood risk
- **Future Flood Risk: Coastal Surge Floods:** Future flood risk is understood in terms of how severe future events may be and how often they will occur. Future flood risk is reflected as a probability.
  - **1% annual chance event:** 26% chance of at least one event in any 30-year period (commonly known as a 100-year event)
  - **0.2% annual chance event:** more severe and less likely to happen (commonly known as a 500-year event)
- **Jennifer Cobian (Calcasieu Parish):** Important takeaway is that how far north do the coastal effects go? There is a limit to where they studied. Coastal effects are important when talking about flood risks.
- **Jacob Marceaux (Beauregard Parish):** Northern Parishes need to hold the water up, and Southern Parishes need to get the water out.
  - Vernon Parish was unable to attend the meeting – possibly coordinate with them to know what their plans are.
- **Fluvial Floods:** Occur when excessive rain falls over an extended period and causes a river to exceed its capacity.
  - Calcasieu River exceeded its capacity as a result of relentless rainfall in the March 2016 flood, tying its second-highest crest level on record near Glenmora and hitting its fifth-highest crest near Oberlin
- **Jacob Marceaux (Beauregard Parish):** Sabine River is getting deeper and narrower
- **Alex Carter (OCD):** There is modeling work happening with Calcasieu Parish and Cameron Parish
- **Pluvial Floods:** Result from intense rain that causes surface, flash or urban flooding. These events are independent, not caused by an overflowing body of water.
  - **Jennifer Cobian (Calcasieu Parish):** Pluvial flooding is the hardest type of flooding to deal

with. This is a big issue that people are working to tackle. Development has a large impact to this type of flooding.

- This type of flooding is happening everywhere.
- **Jennifer Cobian (Calcasieu Parish):** Offer to share Calcasieu's experiences and lessons learned with the northern parishes
- **Alex Carter (OCD):** DOTD has experience managing large contracts across the state
- **Miriam Belblidia (Arcadis):** What do you need to address flood risks? Consider what the source of the flood risk is. Where is the water coming and what is the best way to mitigate it?
- **Alex Carter (OCD):** Need to understand the source of the issue and build trust in government. We need people to understand how they are related to the issue.
- **Traditional gaps in understanding flood risk:** FEMA is responsible for mapping the nation's hazardous flood areas.
  - **FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas:**
    - Provide a basis for flood insurance rates and floodplain management regulations nationwide
    - Inform mapped communities about their flood vulnerability
    - Impact development of the built environment
  - **Region 4:** 40% is located in a SFHA and is subject to flooding.
- **Matt Johns (Rapides Parish):** Noticed a discrepancy of the boundary between Rapides Parish and the neighboring Parishes. The flood hazards follow the political boundaries, asked if there is a way to look into fixing that issue.
- FEMA maps two different flood zones:
  - **A Zones (Special Flood Hazard Areas – High Risk)**
    - Areas in these flood zones are likely to be impacted by a 1% annual chance flood. Structures located within SFHA have a 26% chance of flooding during the life of a standard 30-year mortgage. Federal floodplain management regulations and mandatory flood insurance requirements apply in these zones.
  - **V Zones (Coastal High Hazard Areas – High Risk)**
    - Areas in these flood zones are likely to be impacted by a 1% annual chance flood, extending from offshore to the inland limit of a primary frontal dune along an open coast and any other area subject to high velocity wave action from storms or seismic sources. Structures located within CHHA have a 26% chance of flooding during the life of a standard 30-year mortgage. Federal floodplain management regulations and mandatory flood insurance requirements apply in these zones.
- FEMA maps do **NOT** include future flood predictions.
  - Their maps only show what happened before
  - FEMA struggles to update their maps. A study showed that 58% of all FEMA maps are not current
- It is difficult to inform communities of flood risks.
- **Alberto Galan (Calcasieu Parish):** Developers are using old and outdated FEMA maps when developing homes and the homeowner is unaware most of the time. We need to inform people about that before they buy a home.
- **Myles Hebert (Cameron Parish):** Places flood like never before. Just the other day there was 4 inches of rain that fell in 2 hours. Basically, when the tide is high and there are south winds, there is nothing anyone can do until the wind changes direction.
- **Matt Johns (Rapides Parish):** The data that is being presented to us today by OCD, is this data going to be a supplement to the old FEMA maps?

- **Alex Carter (OCD):** Currently working with DOTD on that. We need to be clear that these maps have obligations. It will probably be a parish by parish approach.
  - Ex. Sabine Parish had FEMA maps from 1991. Will most likely update their maps first since they are the most outdated.
  - We know FEMA maps are not updated often.
- **Jennifer Cobian (Calcasieu Parish):** Excited to see this data become available for the citizens.
- **Repetitive Loss Properties:** areas that has flooded at least twice in 10 years and had damage that was over \$1000 each.
- **Jennifer Cobian (Calcasieu Parish):** Most severe repetitive loss properties are in Flood Zone X or outside of a traditional flood zone.
- **Miriam Belblidia (Arcadis):** Repetitive loss properties must be carrying flood insurance. If there is no flood insurance, the repetitive loss property will not show up on the map.
  - This causes an underrepresentation of risks.
- **Sean Kinney (LDWF):**
  - Sabine has been using the repetitive loss list
  - There are species that we need to be aware of. The Calcasieu River and Sabine have endangered species that we need to look out for
  - Cannot mitigate in an area of endangered species
  - Any impact in water affects a species
- **Jacob Marceaux (Beauregard Parish):** We need LWDF to help us. Communication is important.
- **Robby Maxell (LDWF – DATA & MODELING):**
  - LDWF, DEQ, and all the environmental agencies want to bring perspective.
  - We need to identify projects that reduce flood risks
  - LDWF is not just representing plants and animals – looking out for all interests
  - Does not see a lot of projects stopping because of an endangered species, but it could potentially slow down a project or even stop the project. If a project is stopped, we need to be upfront and clear on why it stopped.
- **Alberto Galan (Calcasieu Parish):** All the things we are talking about needs to be included in the governance model.
- **Case Study: March and August 2016 Floods:** Communities are not required to build structures to withstand the 0.2% chance event, which makes structures in and outside of SFHA unprepared for these more intense events altogether.
  - 1,172 homes impacted in Region 4
  - 35% of structures impacted located within a SFHA
  - 65% of structures impacted located outside of a SFHA
- **CDC Social Vulnerability Index**
  - Most vulnerable people are usually the hardest hit
  - Goal is to focus on projects that reduce vulnerability

#### Discussion on Map Exercise

- The goal of this Region 4 Steering Committee mapping exercise is to identify communities or areas within your region that are at risk of flooding, which will help inform future RSC work.
- Everyone is provided a map of their areas. The goal is to have these marked-up maps by June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (Three weeks from now)

#### Presentation and receive report on Region 4's Regional Flood Risk

- Motion – John Marceaux (Jeff Davis Parish)
- Second – Kara Bonsall (Cameron Parish)

**Consideration and take appropriate action on the Annual Workplan for the Region 4 Regional Steering Committee**

- Motion – Jacob Marceaux (Beauregard Parish)
- Second – Tom Fontcuberta, proxy for Steve Brown (Desoto Parish)

**Closing Remarks**

- **Allen Parish:** Not present
- **Beauregard Parish:** Joey Breaux now in the office of Soil & Water Conservation; there is only one part-time engineer
- **Calcasieu Parish:** working on hiring Watershed Coordinator
- **Cameron Parish:** Is there separate models for the Calcasieu Basin and Sabine Basin? **Alex:** Yes, there are multiple models to create basins
- **Coushatta Tribe:** Not present
- **Desoto Parish:** No further comments
- **Jeff Davis Parish:** No further comments
- **Rapides Parish:** No further comments
- **Sabine Parish:** Not present
- **Vernon Parish:** Not present

**Alex Carter (OCD):** Did not receive grant agreement and not able to access funds. Not able to move forward with Round 1 and cannot reimburse until grant agreement is received.

**Adjourn Meeting**

- Motion – Matt Johns (Rapides Parish)
- Second – Kara Bonsall (Cameron Parish)