

Region 4 Regional Steering Committee Meeting (Virtual Zoom Call)

Meeting Minutes

DATE: July 27, 2020

TIME: 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

ATTENDEES		
Alex Carter, OCD	Amber Downs, Calcasieu Parish	Jeanne Hornsby, Fenstermaker
Brad Spiegel, OCD	Jacob Marceaux, Beauregard Parish	Dax Douet, Fenstermaker
Evelyn Campo, OCD	Myles Hebert, Cameron Parish	Anna Doucet, Fenstermaker
Ann Guissinger, OCD	Steve Brown, Desoto Parish	Ian Trahan, DOTD
Alberto Galan, Calcasieu Parish	Tom Fontcuberta, Desoto Parish	Heidi Stewart, NLCOG – Region 1
Jennifer Cobian, Calcasieu Parish	Matt Johns, Rapides Parish	Robby Maxwell, LDWF
Terry Frelot, Calcasieu Parish	Kimberly Heise, CSRS	Bukky Esho
Natasha Willis, Calcasieu Parish	Butch Babineaux, Fenstermaker	

ACTION ITEMS		
Individual(s)	Item	Due Date
RSC	Governance Meeting	8/31/2020
RSC	Project Inventory Submission	10/31/2020

MEETING SUMMARY:

Introductions (Alberto Galan, Calcasieu Parish)

- Call to Order: 10:45 AM
- Roll Call
 - Jason Hebert (Allen Parish) – Not Present
 - Jacob Marceaux (Beauregard Parish) – Present
 - Myles Hebert (Cameron Parish) – Present
 - Gardner Rose (Coushatta) – Not Present
 - Steve Brown (Desoto Parish) – Present
 - John Marceaux (Jeff Davis Parish)– Not Present
 - Matt Johns (Rapides Parish)– Present
 - William Ruffin (Sabine Parish) – Not Present
 - Carl Thompson (Vernon Parish) – Not Present
 - Kara Bonsall (Cameron Parish) – Not Present (gave notice before hand)
 - Tom Fontcuberta (Desoto Parish) – Present
 - Alberto Galan (Calcasieu Parish) - Present
- Consideration of approving the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Region 4 Regional Steering Committee dated June 15th, 2020
 - Due to low attendance, this motion will be deferred until the next RSC meeting

Recap of Region 4's Regional Flood Risk and discussion on Region 4 Flood Risk Mapping Exercise Brad Spiegel (OCD) (Brad Spiegel presented in Miriam Belblidia's place)

- Since June 15th, we received comments from the Lake Charles LDWF office, specific to the Moss Bluff, Westlake, Sulphur, Lake Charles, Big Lake, and Starks areas.
- Recap from June 15th Flood Risk Presentation – this presentation was done to understand the flood risks in Region 4. The flood risk mapping exercise was provided to get feedback, and the meeting and mapping exercise will be added to the story map. Governance meeting is August 31st.
- High level takeaways – there are two main watersheds in Region 4, the Sabine Watershed and the Calcasieu Watershed. The parishes have an interdependent connection with water. Parishes in the upper part of Region 4 need to do what they can to slow the speed of water, and the parishes in the lower part of Region 4 need to do what they can to release the water.
- There was discussion about how 40% of Region 4 is in a FEMA hazard area. The FEMA Hazard Maps were updated decades ago and does not consider future flood risks. The maps also follow political boundaries.
- Watershed models are important to decision making. Jennifer noticed that most repetitive loss properties are in Flood Zone “X”, and 65% of homes in Calcasieu Parish that flooded in 2016 were outside of major flood areas.
- An important element in LWI and Region 4 is to make sure the data that is used is up-to-date, accurate, transparent, and accessible.
- The purpose of the flood risk mapping exercise is to get input areas of risks not shown in presentation and share the issues that are occurring. The state is continuing to refine maps and programs.

Overview of watershed governance examples presented at the Best Practice Summit (Alex Carter, OCD)

- From data to decision making
 - Flood risk discussion
 - June – July 2020
 - Key themes regarding regional flood risk
 - Root cause analysis
 - July – August 2020
 - Sorting issues
 - Analysis of issues driving regional flood risk
 - Regional governance reports/briefing books
 - Governance gap analysis
 - August – October 2020
 - Regional reports to the watershed council on preferred authority types for regional governance
- Focus on these three things: Accountability, authority, process
- Encourage to look at Harris County models to develop flood risks projects
- **Jacob Marceaux (Beauregard Parish):** Challenge OCD to give us guidance on governance structures. It was rough trying to figure out governance structure.
- **Alex Carter (OCD):** Some regions know what they want, and other regions want recommendations on governance structures. We are working with consultants to formulate governances and next steps, and to hear back from you and analysis from our team.

- **Alberto Galan (Calcasieu Parish):** Agree with Jacob. When OCD sent out sample work plan, we were able to tweak it to fit our region. OCD knows a lot more than we do.
- **Alex Carter (OCD):** As soon as we get off this call, we will contact CSRS about this deliverable.

Presentation and discussion of the Regional Project Inventory Data for Region 4 (Jennifer Cobian, Calcasieu Parish)

- Sent out an email on July 17th about the call for projects for project inventory. This was mainly directed towards RSC members.
- The LWI Region 4 Watershed Project List will be a comprehensive list of all watershed-related projects and plans that are planned, underway, or recently completed in the watershed region. The purpose of this inventory is to help create a common picture of what projects are planned, underway, or recently completed in the watershed.
- Deadline for project inventory submissions is October 31st, 2020.
- There are instructions from OCD what was included in the email from July 17th. It goes through what qualifies as a project. When considering which projects to include, users should consider which projects are the most relevant to discuss amongst stakeholders within the regional watershed. Regions, under the guidance of their Watershed Coordinators, should establish their own parameters regarding the scale of projects to include in their regional inventory.
- Presented form and outlined how to use it and what to input and presented GIS map of Round 1 projects.
- Reached out for questions since there was no feedback on the email.
- **Myles Hebert (Cameron Parish):** How far back do we go for past projects?
- **Jennifer Cobian (Calcasieu Parish):** We are looking for 2 years back.
 - **Alex Carter (OCD):** Yes, that is correct.
- **Myles Hebert (Cameron Parish):** I have projects right now that we can include.

Update on LWI statewide modeling effort (Ian Trahan, DOTD; Dax Douet, Jeanne Hornsby & Anna Doucet, Fenstermaker)

- **Ian Trahan (DOTD):** Presented LWI Contract Areas. Serves as DOTD Project Manager for LWI.
 - There are 7 modeling regions.
 - Region 4 also coincides with Region 4 modeling contract.
 - Continued coordination with RSC members, consultants, and modelers is key.
 - DOTD went through an extensive and selective procurement process to select the best consultant with engineering experience, technical expertise, and modeling. Fenstermaker is the prime consultant for Region 4.
- **Dax Douet (Fenstermaker):** Civil Engineer with Fenstermaker and is acting as the Consultant Team Project Manager. Jeanne Hornsby and Anna Doucet are also part of the team.
 - Fenstermaker is located in Lafayette but has done work for the Calcasieu area.
 - LWI Modeling Contract Region 4 Consultant Team
 - Prime Consultant: C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC
 - Subconsultants:
 - Michael Baker International, Inc
 - FTN Associates, Ltd. (based out of Arkansas)
 - Half Associates, Inc. (based out of Texas)
 - JESCO Environmental & Geotechnical Services, Inc (located in Jennings, LA)
- **Jeanne Hornsby (Fenstermaker):** Lead hydraulic modeler – specializes in water resources projects.

- Modeling will be conducted at the HUC8 scale, consistent with watershed boundaries.
- Models will look at joint probability storm events, accounting for both inland and coastal effects.
- Inflows from Texas as well as operations of the Sabine River Authority will be accounted for in the models.
- Modeling will objectively accommodate regional scale flood mitigation and watershed management alternatives.
- **Dax Douet (Fenstermaker):** Next steps:
 - DOTD
 - Procure Task Order No. 1
 - Issue notice to proceed for Task Order No. 1
 - Provide Data Request Template
 - Modeling Consultants
 - Mobilize Modeling Teams
 - Begin Data Collection and Gap Analysis
 - Previous watershed studies
 - Channel survey data
 - Structures
 - Historical flooding
 - Highwater marks
 - Water quality / ecological information
 - Develop Survey Collection Approach
 - Watershed Modeling Approach
 - Regional Steering Committee
 - Begin Engagement with Modeling Consultants
 - Assist with Providing contacts for Data Collection Efforts
- **Jacob Marceaux (Beauregard Parish):** Who is paying Fenstermaker?
- **Ian Trahan (DOTD):** DOTD is one of five agencies that create the Watershed Council per John Bel Edwards order. DOTD entered agreement with OCD. We are funded by OCD and pay consultants, and we are reimbursed by OCD.

Receive any additional updates from OCD

- **Alex Carter (OCD):** Still did not receive grant agreement yet, and not able to access funds. Working under other sets of funds to keep us moving.
- **Jacob Marceaux (Beauregard Parish):** Status of resolution?
 - **Alex Carter (OCD):** In process of pulling in more agencies.
- **Jennifer Cobian (Calcasieu Parish):** Advertising for watershed coordinator position. It is a consultant position.
 - **Jacob Marceaux (Beauregard Parish):** When was this advertised?
 - **Natasha Willis (Calcasieu Parish):** This was advertised last Wednesday.

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

- Due to low attendance, this will be deferred until the next RSC meeting

Adjourn Meeting @ 11:41 A.M.