

LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE
REGION 4 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
REGULAR MEETING

June 30, 2021

1:30 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mr. Matt Johns called the meeting to order 1:32 pm

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Matt Johns, Mr. Jay Guillory, Mr. Myles Hebert, Mr. Carl Thompson, Mr. Gardner Rose, Mr. Tom Fontcuberta, Mr. Michael McCormic

Not Present: Mr. Jacob Marceaux, Mr. Alberto Galan, Mr. Jason Hebert, Ms. Kara Bonsall

Others Present: Mr. Mike Hollier (IMCAL), Ms. Natasha Willis (Calcasieu Parish), Ms. Nicolette Jones (LA OCD), Mr. Bradley Spiegel (LA OCD), Ms. Stephanie Boh (LWI Watershed Coordinator), Mr. Edward Anthony (LWI Watershed Coordinator), Ms. Tara Ross (CPPJ)

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Matt Johns led the Invocation.

Mr. Matt Johns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Meeting Minutes Approval

Take appropriate action to approve the minutes of May 26, 2021, Regional 4 Region Steering Committee meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Gardner Rose and Mr. Carl Thompson seconded by, and the motion result was Passed.

5. Update on the 2021-2022 Regional Communications Plan and Report Out, QES/OCD

2021-2022 Regional Communications Plan, QES:

The Region 4 - Outreach & Engagement campaign utilized existing monthly meetings to gather feedback on the Provisional Governance Recommendation. Scheduling was accomplished through a series of communications with parish officials with the support of each respective RSC member. Using the O&E toolkit for guidance, Regional Watershed Coordinators presented an overview of LWI, program objectives, challenges & opportunities, and the components of the Provisional Governance Recommendations. At the presentation midpoint and conclusion, a facilitated Q&A session was held on the floor to determine if the recommendation needed modifications.

Watershed Coordinators provided updates on meetings and causes for rescheduling. In person meetings were held with the following:

1. Allen Parish Police Jury/Coushatta Tribe – Outreach Video Option, 7/7 Meeting
2. Beauregard Parish Police Jury – 5/11
3. Calcasieu Parish Police Jury – (Rescheduled from 5/20 due to flooding event) Outreach Video Option
4. Cameron Parish Police Jury – 5/11
5. DeSoto Parish Police Jury – Outreach Video Option, 6/14 Police Jury Meeting
6. Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury – 5/5
7. Rapides Parish Police Jury – 5/3
8. Sabine Parish Police Jury – 5/19
9. Vernon Parish Police Jury – 5/17

LWI Region 4 – Website & Outreach Video, QES

As part of outreach to Municipalities, LWI Region 4 created a Provisional Recommendation Video which showcased completed activities and tasks that help support long-term regional watershed management. The video served as a contact point to engage in upcoming Region 4 activities. See below for the list of municipalities receiving the recommendation video:

1. Many
2. Leesville
3. DeRidder
4. Pineville
5. Oberlin
6. Oakdale
7. Lake Charles
8. Westlake
9. Jennings
10. Grand Lake

Watershed Coordinators found stakeholders to be mostly supportive with reservations. There are concerns of information flow from the state and allocation of proper resources across the entirety of Region 4. In addition to long-term sustainability of the program, implementing substantial and necessary changes. A belief that taxes may be raised and not go toward or fix the problems.

6. LWI Region 4 – Governance Recommendation Update and RSC Consideration, QES/OCD

Updates were made on the floor following RSC review of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative - Region 4 Provisional Governance Recommendation are provided below as a summary:

Mr. Jay Guillory questioned the accuracy of the boundary line in Jefferson Davis Parish. This prompt RSC to update how Region 4 would define its boundaries.

How are regional boundaries defined?

The regional watershed boundaries should be recognized or approved by a state agency, board or program in consultation with those involved via the LWI regions, entities and parishes

Governance Recommendation Date: June 30, 2021

RSC Participants Vote to Approve LWI Region 4 – Governance Recommendation Document (with edits from floor):

Mr. Myles Hebert - Cameron Parish, Yes
Mr. Gardner Rose - Coushatta Tribe, Yes
Mr. Thomas Fontcuberta - DeSoto Parish, Yes
Mr. Jay Guillory - Jefferson Davis Parish, Yes
Mr. Matt Johns - Rapides Parish, Yes
Mr. Michael McCormic– Sabine Parish, Yes
Mr. Carl Thompson - Vernon Parish, Yes

RSC Vote Total: 7-0

No objections

See the complete Governance Recommendation for more details.

7. LWI Region 4 – Project Selection Update and RSC Consideration, QES/OCD

WSC provided a recap of announcements from the state awards for Round 1 projects made at The Council on Watershed Management. There was a review of the project selection process, state scoring criteria, and project applications.

Funded project

As part of the state funded projects, the Coushatta Casino Resort Wastewater Treatment Plant Floodwall was awarded to construct a 4- to 5-foot floodwall around the perimeter of the Coushatta Casino Resort's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Unfunded project moving to regional selection process

The City of Leesville - Replacement of Ball Park Lift Station was the eligible project to move forward to the RSC for consideration. This drainage infrasturcutre improvement replaces an existing wastewater pumping station with a new pumping station

Project Selection Process Date: June 30, 2021

RSC Participants Vote to Approve LWI Region 4 – City of Leesville - Replacement of Ball Park Lift Station

- Mr. Myles Hebert - Cameron Parish, Yes
- Mr. Gardner Rose - Coushatta Tribe, Yes
- Mr. Thomas Fontcuberta - DeSoto Parish, Yes
- Mr. Jay Guillory - Jefferson Davis Parish, Yes
- Mr. Matt Johns - Rapides Parish, Yes
- Mr. Michael McCormic– Sabine Parish, Yes
- Mr. Carl Thompson - Vernon Parish, Yes

RSC Vote Total: 7-0

No objections

See the complete LWI Region 4 Project List for more details.

8. Receive any additional updates from OCD

No update

9. Receive any additional updates from IMCAL

Gave an update on the boards interest in drainage and reducing flood risk. Has challenged the staff to review this issue comprehensively. Wants to determine a way to provide incentive and technical support to work toward addressing these issues. Assures to not waste time and zero in on the shovel ready projects and make this opportunity more than projects.

10. Update on LWI statewide modeling effort - Fenstermaker

No update

11. 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 – Not update

Beauregard Parish – No update

Calcasieu Parish – No update

Cameron Parish – No update

Coushatta Tribe – No update

DeSoto Parish – No update

Jeff Davis Parish – No update

Rapides Parish – No update

Sabine Parish – No update

Vernon Parish – No update

Public Comment – No comments

12. Adjournment.

Mr. Carl Thompson motioned, and Mr. Gardner Rose seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 PM