

LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE
REGION 4 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
REGULAR MEETING

July 28, 2021

1:30 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mr. Matt Johns called the meeting to order 1:33 pm

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Matt Johns, Ms. Jennifer Cobian, Mr. Jay Guillory, Mr. Myles Hebert, Mr. Gardner Rose, Mr. Tom Fontcuberta,

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

Others Present: Mr. Mike Hollier (IMCAL), Ms. Natasha Willis (Calcasieu Parish), Amber Downs (Calcasieu Parish), Jeanne Hornsby (Fenstermaker), 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 June 30, 2021, Regional 4 Region Steering Committee meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Jennifer Cobian and seconded by Mr. Tom Fontcuberta, 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 following the June meeting updates. In person meetings were held with the following:

1. Allen Parish Police Jury/Coushatta Tribe – Outreach Video Option, 7/7 In-Person 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
10. Chenier Plains Coastal Restoration & Protection Authority - 7/20

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.

Ms. Jeanne Hornsby recommended visiting the Port of Lake Charles, Cameron Port and Sabine River Authority for engagement and the future Coalition.

Ms. Stephanie Boh request RSC members to forward any communication to WSC that should be forwarded as part of a monthly communication

6. LWI Region 4 – Update on the Watershed Council Meeting – August 5th, QES/OCD

Updates were made on the floor following RSC review of the slide to be presented to the Louisiana Watershed Initiative as an activity summary for Region 4. The change is provided below as a summary:

Mr. Matt Jones gave insight into his findings regarding in review of other coordinators activities. He stated that MUSM is not included on the one-pager, should we include it? Or do we want to wait until the 60 day open comment period is completed? He noted that we are not 100% in concert with other regions on the MUSM and should add it to the presentation.

RSC members reviewed the current Data and Modeling language:

Data and Modeling

- Coordinate data management with local stakeholders and create regional data repository
- Store watershed models locally with entity in charge of day-to-day operation

Per the direction of RSC Members, the Governance Recommendation language above was added to the presentation to Watershed Council.

7. LWI Region 4 – Parish Support Activities, QES

Mr. Edward Anthony lead a quick review of the approved project and discussed the coming technical assistance from OCD for Round 1 projects. WSC provided a recap of discussion held with RSC members to provide additional parish support services and will be reaching out to determine how we can better serve throughout this process. From comments at the June meeting, Edward will reach out to Micheal McCormick (Sabine Parish) to see if they need any additional support that we can better serve..

Mr. Bradley Speigel reported that due to spikes of COVID-19 the August 5 - LWI Council Meeting has been changed from in person to a virtual meeting. There are several key items to be discussed at the August – Council Meeting:

- The Council will official determine RCS Phase 2 approval, and launch the next steps for the grant and continued funding; Watershed Coordinators will collaborate on next steps
- Announcement for the initiation of Round 2 by offering details on the design support pilot program; Funds will come through to help approve the policies and procedures and a portion of that is for those projects submitted in Phase 1 that needs more technical assistance.
- Present the MUSM plan and request an open comment period for 60 days to participate in whether or not model should be stored locally or state and what does that look like. State wants to hear from all stakeholders to get feedback. Option

for Regions to have more of a choice on the modeling, but the state would house the IT so it would be one repository. Region 5 is going to do a briefing on the MUSM plan in order for the regional stakeholders to understand what they are giving comments to.

8. Receive any additional updates from OCD

Mr. Bradley Speigel gave updates on the nature based solutions webinar that will focus on how to build capacity across the state for floodplain mitigation. There will be 9 webinars between Sept 2021 – July 2022, designed to cover the entire process. Additional updates will be provided in August.

9. Receive any additional updates from IMCAL

Mr. Mike Hollier is working on a comprehensive plan that will provide an approach to the entire watershed. IMCAL will be establishing meetings with local authorities individually to go over prospects and what they can provide to give concrete suggestions on how we proceed. Should have significant recommendations and strategies in October 2021.

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.

Ms. Jennifer Cobian motioned, and Mr. Gardner Rose seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 PM