



Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, DeSoto, Jefferson Davis, Rapides, Sabine, and Vernon Parishes and Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana

**COALITION POLICY COUNCIL (CPC) MEETING  
HELD AT NOON MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023  
Beauregard Parish Police Jury Office  
DeRidder, Louisiana**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Welcome and Call to Order:**

The chair welcomed those in attendance, called the meeting to order, and began to call the roll. Chair  
Alberto Galan

**2. Chair calls rolls:** Chair

- Allen Parish - Responded present.
- Beauregard Parish - Responded present.
- Calcasieu Parish - Responded present.
- Cameron Parish – Responded present.
- Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana – No response.
- DeSoto Parish – Responded present.
- Jefferson Davis Parish - No response.
- Rapides Parish - Responded present.
- Sabine Parish – No response.
- Vernon Parish – No response.
- Port of Lake Charles- Responded present.
- City of Lake Charles - No response.
- City of Oakdale – No response.
- Southwest Louisiana Ports/Airports
- Sabine River Authority - No response.

The Chair reported nine of the seventeen Coalition Policy Council members were present.

Also present were Andre’ Boudreaux, Watershed Coordinator I, Justin Habetz, GIS Technician III, and Jamie Gaines, Special Projects Manager. Michael Bernard, GIS & Technology Manager joined the meeting via Zoom. Kathleen Lunn, Oyd Craddock, and Jennifer Cobian also joined via Zoom.

**3. Review and Adoption of Minutes for Meeting Held May 22, 2023:** Chair

The Chair asked for all members to review and consider the meeting minutes. The Chair stated that they would entertain a motion and a second for the adoption. Mr. Bryan McReynolds moved for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Jacob Dillehay seconded the motion. The Chair stated that the minutes and the motion was adopted.

**4. Watershed Legislation Update:** Chair  
There was no update or comments on the Legislation Update.

**5. Eleven Round 2 Funding Applications submitted from Region 4: Five Projects in Group A (Eligible),** Chair

**Four Projects in Group B (Requiring additional information):**

Ms. Jamie Gaines began the conversation with discussing the differences in the two project groups or categories. Group A consists of five projects that all met the necessary low- to moderate- income criteria through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI). She then explained that Group B consists of projects that did not meet the LMI criteria and required additional technical assistance. Ms. Gaines did present an update that the Wright Road Detention Pond project that's part of Group A has been deemed ineligible by LWI due to the funding request. The max funding for Round 2 is \$15,000,000 and the project's budget totaled to \$17,000,000. Ms. Gaines asked Mr. Oyd Craddock to give more detail on the ineligibility. Mr. Craddock stated that due to the overage of budget the project was rejected and offered to speak to Ms. Jennifer Cobian offline about possibilities for bringing the project up to eligibility. Ms. Cobian requested that the project remain up consideration by the Policy Council since they will be working to make the project eligible. Ms. Gaines stated that the project would still be up for consideration. Mr. Galan followed up by stating that this topic was to discuss the two groups and to receive and update on the application process.

**6. Technical Advisory Committee Recommendations on Round 2** Chair

The Chair asked if the staff was prepared to present the Technical Advisory Committee recommendations for Round 2 funding. Watershed Coordinator Andre' Boudreaux responded that they were prepared to present the TAC's recommendations. He stated that the following was the ranking for Group A:

1. Greinwich Terrace Stormwater Management Project
2. Flat Creek Storm Storage
3. 6<sup>th</sup> Street Drainage Improvements
4. Wright Road Detention Pond
5. Bayou San Patricio Area Drainage Improvements

Mr. Boudreaux then moved onto the Group B rankings by the Technical Advisory Committee:

1. Mill Creek Stormwater Storage
2. Iowa Regional Detention Pond (Version 2)
3. Dolet Hills Area Reservoirs & San Patricio Bayou Relief

The Chair asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the ranking of the projects. He stated that the Council should begin with questions first on Group A.

Ms. Kathleen Lunn started the conversation by briefly describing the ways to manipulate or change the polygon areas used to meet the LMI criteria. She described redrawing or completely moving the polygon areas to capture the benefit area and meet the criteria. Ms. Jamie Gaines asked how parishes should resubmit the polygons and further information. Ms. Lunn responded that the information would be submitted through OCD. Mr. Oyd Craddock further emphasized the importance of LMI during

Round 2 consideration.

The Chair opened the floor to motions for accepting the TAC's rankings. Mr. Matt Johns from Rapides Parish put forth a motion to approve the Technical Advisory Councils' project ranking that has been presented. Mr. Jacob Dillehay seconded the motion. The Chair stated that the motion therefore passed and was adopted.

**7. Advancing Seven Spokes of the Wheel throughout Region 4**

Michael Hollier

Mr. Michael Hollier started the conversation by stating that all the projects that were submitted are good projects. They all accomplish a variety of different aspects of the seven spokes of the wheel. However, he expressed the need to move urgently for other opportunities for funding. He noted that maybe 2 or 3 of the projects were met with some criticism about maintaining the project once it's complete. He emphasized considering all the different spokes of the wheel when assessing projects.

No action was necessary for this agenda item.

**8. 2023 Disaster Grant Application Options and TAC Recommendation**

Jamie Gaines

Ms. Jamie Gaines began the conversation by overviewing the grant process. The watershed staff applied for the grant in August 2022 for \$1,000,000 on behalf of Region 4. She stated that she had sent out information regarding Letters of Support for the grant and the need to have those signed and returned. She said that the letters were part of the information that the state requested to continue with the grant process. She stated that in the meantime there is another round of grant funding that has opened for \$1,000,000. The staff plans to apply for this grant on behalf of Region 4 as well. The Technical Advisory Committee has evaluated a list of potential projects for the grant. One potential project would be titled "Swamp Brains" which is essentially an artificial intelligence monitoring system for the entire region that would assist in coordination. Another project option is one titled "String of Pearls." The next potential project is one focused around LIDAR surveying. Another potential project is a field inventory of Region 4 repeat and potential flooding structures. The final project was the installation of a gauge system throughout the region to monitor water and flood levels in real-time. The Technical Advisory Committee selected the LIDAR project as the plan they would like the staff to pursue for funding.

Mr. Jacob Dillehay followed up with stating part of the TAC's sentiment behind selecting the LIDAR project was the idea that each parish or entity could use the data independently to identify repeat or potential repeat flooding structures. He stated that he has met with DOTD and OCD and both have stressed the need for addressing repeat flood structures to prevent repetitive loss flooding. He expressed that he hopes this data could be used in the future to apply for other forms and opportunities of funding within the region.

Mr. Matt Johns asked a question regarding the strict criteria through FEMA on what qualifies a repetitive flooding structure. He asked what would boots on the ground or the LIDAR data do to benefit the region? Mr. Dillehay said that boots on the ground can only do so much as far as getting individuals who don't want to

participate in surveying the area. He stated that LIDAR data can outright quantify those individuals or structures. Mr. Johns expressed that he agreed with the benefit of that. Michael Bernard joined the conversation to share more details about street-level LIDAR and some cost estimates he had received previously.

The LIDAR project was agreed upon by the Council unanimously. Not sure if vote is needed?

**9. Nominations and Elections for Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer** Chair

The Chair opened the floor for nominations to the spot of Chair. Mr. Matt Johns nominated Mr. Alberto Galan for the position of Chair. The Council confirmed Mr. Galan unanimously for the position of Chair.

The Chair opened the floor for nominations to the spot of Vice Chair. Mr. Matt Johns clarified the Vice Chair will also be the Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Michael Hollier confirmed that that's correct. Mr. Bryan McReynolds nominated Mr. Jacob Dillehay. Mr. Matt Johns seconded the nomination. The Council confirmed Mr. Dillehay unanimously for the position of Vice Chair and Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for nominations to the spot of Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Bryan McReynolds nominated Mr. Matt Johns for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Alberto Galan seconded the nomination. The Council confirmed Mr. Johns unanimously for the position of Secretary/Treasurer.

The Chair closed the floor to nominations and congratulated the newly elected.

**10. Public Comment** Chair

The Chair asked if there was any public comment and opened the floor. Hearing none he moved to entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**11. Adjournment** Chair

The Chair called to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jacob Dillehay seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

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Mike Hollier  
Acting Chair/Executive Director

ATTEST:

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Jamie Gaines

Special Projects Manager

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Andre' Boudreaux  
Watershed Coordinator I