



LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

working together for sustainability and resilience

Regional Watershed Management

Governance Exercises Briefing Book

GOALS OF GOVERNANCE EXERCISES

GOVERNANCE EXERCISE NO. 1

Prioritize key issues and challenges that cannot be addressed at a local or state level or that face unique hurdles requiring regional support. This is work that needs to be done to reduce risk.

GOVERNANCE EXERCISE NO. 2

Explore and review approaches used and analyses completed that weigh the pros and cons of regional approaches to watershed management.

GOVERNANCE EXERCISE NO. 3

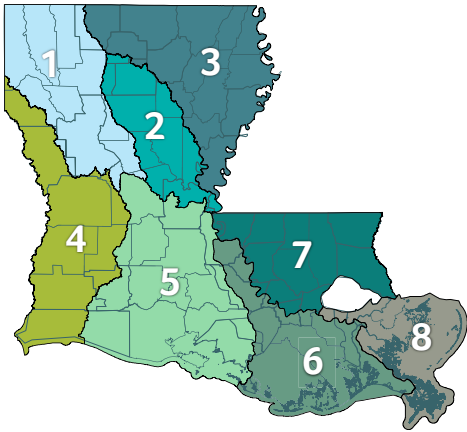
Review the entities performing water management functions in each region and explore trade-offs with these entities to delineate which models of regional governance will deliver which functions.

GOVERNANCE EXERCISE NO. 4

Create a clear picture of gaps and opportunities in responsibility and authority for watershed management in each region, as well as recommendations for how to establish regional entities.

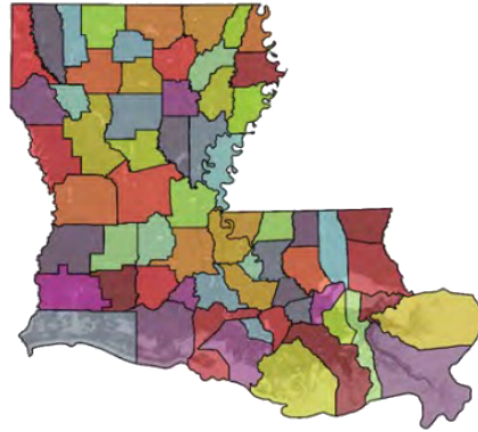
REGIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

The Council on Watershed Management recognized provisional watershed regions to facilitate regional watershed management based not on political boundaries, but on how water naturally moves throughout the state.



Provisional Watershed Regions

Accepted Aug. 8, 2019



Parish Boundaries

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM

The program provides resources and support to watershed regions to enable the formation of stable, long-term, regional governance structures and to cultivate staff capacity for watershed management.

Each region has established steering committees that will develop and adopt recommendations for regional watershed governance.

Governance Exercise No. 1 is the next step in the process to develop regional governance recommendations.



WHAT WE'VE HEARD

The council held eight workshops throughout the state to obtain input from stakeholders.

“Lack of regional coordination has led to runoff and backwater flooding in our parish.”

A regional watershed entity should:

- Coordinate and interact with drainage districts, levee districts and other related organizations and incorporate relevant master plans.
- Develop plans that address regional floodplain and flood risk management needs.
- Help make land-use planning and floodplain controls more consistent within watersheds and throughout the state.
- Leverage local expertise at every opportunity, from advanced modeling efforts to socioeconomic impact analysis.

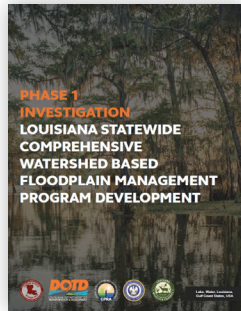
BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION OF PREVIOUS EFFORTS



April 2014

SCR 39 Report

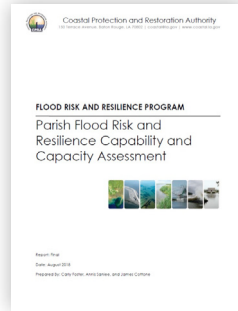
Catalogued more than 600 entities with floodplain and flood risk management responsibilities



May 2018

Phase I Report

Clarified next steps for state and regional alignment for watershed management



August 2018

Parish Flood Risk Capacity Assessment

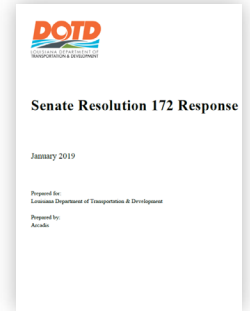
Studied parishes' capacity to implement flood mitigation measures



January 2019

Statewide Listening Tour Report

Obtained statewide input on policy, planning and programs



SR 172 Response

Identified strategic areas of focus (see below)

STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS



DATA • LWI develops and uses living models and data in each watershed region to make decisions regarding land use, public policy and project evaluation.



STANDARDS • Jurisdictions throughout Louisiana collaborate to adopt and enforce higher floodplain management standards that reduce risk to people, property and the economy.



ENGAGEMENT • Stakeholders from all sectors and throughout the state contribute to the program's solutions and build awareness throughout their networks.



INTEGRATED PLANNING • Each watershed region develops a plan with its member parishes that aligns with the state plan and has the authority needed to effect change.



CAPABILITY & CAPACITY • Watershed regions and their jurisdictions have the resources, staff, skills and tools necessary to effectively reduce current and future flood risk.



FUNDING • Each watershed region has sustainable funding to meet near- and long-term project and maintenance needs and ongoing support for capacity-building and leadership capability.