

A REGIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT APPROACH

REGION 5 CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

SUBMITTED BY ACADIANA PLANNING COMMISSION



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OVERVIEW OF ACADIANA PLANNING COMMISSION

The Acadiana Planning Commission, Inc. was established in 2015 to serve as the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development District, the State of Louisiana's Planning District Four, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Acadiana Planning Commission also holds a non-profit corporation status.

As enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana Section 1. Subpart F of Part IV of Chapter 1 of Title 33 of the LA R.S. of 1950, comprised of Section 140.61 and 140.62. The Planning Districts were legislatively enacted "to facilitate intergovernmental cooperation and insure the orderly and harmonious coordination of state, federal, and local comprehensive planning and development programs for the solution and resolution of economic, social, physical, and governmental problems of the state and its citizens".

APC consists of seven parishes within Acadiana: Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin and Vermilion Parishes. The governing board of APC is made up of the elected Parish and Police Jury Presidents from the seven-member parishes. In 2015, the participating members' council, filed Articles of Incorporation to authorize the districts creation. Similarly, that year the Acadiana MPO re-organized its membership base to strengthen transportation coordination at the municipality level. Since then, APC and the MPO have worked closely together with the parishes and municipalities to develop a unified regional vision.

In 2017, the U.S. Office of Economic Development Administration (EDA) designated APC to serve as the Economic Development Designee for Acadiana. APC's mission is to serve "the Public Sector in planning and implementation of Economic, Community and Transportation Development".

Monique Boulet joined APC as the Chief Executive Officer early in APC's formation. Since its establishment, Boulet has not only increased the capacity of the organization but has also created a sense of unity amongst the participating parishes.

APC will serve as the organizing body for watershed management activities in LWI Region 5 which encompasses 16 parishes and four HUC 8 watersheds: Teche, Vermilion, Mermentau, and Mermentau Headwaters. For the purposes of the Regional Capacity Building Grant Program (RCBG), APC proposes to utilize existing staff members and hire one additional employee to fulfill the watershed management activities.

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DESCRIPTION OF NEED

In August of 2016, prolonged rainfall in south Louisiana, resulted in catastrophic flooding. The federally declared disaster was the worst U.S. natural disaster since Hurricane Sandy in 2012. In 2017, the State was hit again by Hurricane Harvey and Tropical Storm Barry. These devastating events led to the creation of the Louisiana Watershed Council, Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI), and 8 LWI Regions for watershed management purposes.

Storms and floods have increased in frequency and intensity, causing significant long-lasting damage to the State. The effects on the communities within LWI Region 5 are such that the areas serviced are seemingly living in a state of perpetual recovery.

Need for Coordinated Planning

In a post-disaster environment, our local governments are burdened with regular on-going work and emerging disaster-related community needs. Staff resources are stretched thin and many employees are also personally impacted leaving limited capacity to address long-term recovery needs. The Regional Capacity Building Program proposes to add a layer of local support for developing and implementing long-term recovery and resilience strategies through the Watershed Coordinator and Floodplain Management Approach.

Significant strides have been made to increase individual resilience within a community, however community-wide resilience and regional resilience is still somewhat of a novel idea that has yet to be fully imbedded in the planning processes of elected officials and public administrators. Consequently, the region remains in a continual state of recovery, and will remain so until local planning processes, land use and development, and building practices adapt to the increasing frequency in flood events.

Need for Increased CRS Participation

Building on past successes, the proposal outlines a 3-year strategy for continued multi-jurisdictional watershed coordination and the establishment of a regional floodplain program. In selecting this approach, the region will address the lack or limited participation in the Community Rating System (CRS), National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). As of August 2019, 317 communities statewide participated in the NFIP and of these 13% participated in the CRS. Within LWI Region 5 two of sixteen parishes are currently participating in the CRS program. CRS participation rates in LWI Region 5 are one of the lowest in the State. Combined the 4 major watersheds in LWI Region 5 amass \$582 Million in NFIP historical claims, 1,379 repetitive loss properties, and 166 severe repetitive loss properties. Nationally, Louisiana tops other states in repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss claims.

What becomes clear from this data is a new approach is needed to support regional planning and watershed coordination efforts, CRS participation, and sustainable governance in these practices. This proposal seeks to address these needs and expound upon the foundation developed by the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

Figure 1



DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Shortly after the August Floods of 2016, APC participated in numerous recovery planning meetings with Federal and State agencies. As a result of the coordination, the US Office of Economic Development and the LA Office of Community Development funded a Disaster Recovery Manager to implement the FEMA National Disaster Recovery Framework within Acadiana. This role was responsible for coordinating with State planning efforts and adapting these strategies at the local level. The Regional Capacity Building Grant Program will not only allow these efforts to continue but enhance watershed planning efforts by establishing a preliminary governance structure for watershed decision-making.

The Regional Capacity Grant Program funds will be used to accomplish four primary objectives: 1) develop and facilitate both a one-year interim steering committee and a longer-term regional coalition 2) provide local technical assistance in floodplain management and assess the region's existing conditions 3) coordinate outreach opportunities for the LA State Watershed Initiative and 4) identify long-term sustainable governance scenarios.

STEERING COMMITTEE AND COALITION COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

Regional Steering Committee Activities.

To coincide with the state-led efforts, APC will establish within the first year of the RCBG program a provisional steering committee comprised of the 16 parishes within LWI Region 5. The committee will be responsible for providing input in the development of a more long-term solution for continued watershed-planning efforts. Committee members will provide guidance and expertise in the development of the coalition's governance structure, composition, potential activities, and funding scenarios. In addition to standing-up the coalition, the steering committee will initiate a regional project list or capital improvement program that will be readily available for future state and federal funding opportunities. The committee at times may facilitate a screening and prioritization process to appropriately match projects to funding opportunities.

Regional Steering Committee Composition.

A representative from each of the 16 parishes and 3 community members-at-large will make-up the steering committee. APC has requested formal nominations from the parishes which are illustrated in Appendix C. The Steering Committee composition is as follows:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT TIME OF SUBMISSION

Table 1

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES		
PARISH	INDIVIDUAL	SECTOR REPRESENTATION

CRS program. In doing so, APC is able to offer the parishes within LWI Region 5 a service that may improve flood-risk reduction measures and may lower resident's flood insurance premiums.

A primary deliverable of the floodplain approach is to assess the existing flood-vulnerable conditions throughout the region and within each watershed. Vulnerability, according to FEMA, is the measure of the capacity to weather, resist, or recover from the impacts of a hazard in the short and long-term. Vulnerability depends on many factors such as land use, extent and type of construction, contents and use, the nature of populations (mobility, age, health), and event warning systems. To decrease future flood-risk an understanding of the region's vulnerabilities must first be established.

The CRS coordinator will be tasked with compiling an inventory of existing conditions that will ultimately be used to inform CRS participation or advancement, a resiliency plan, and a best practices toolkit for land-use and development. Flood planning mitigation measures will be the primary focus for the assessment and will 1) identify the various types of flooding experienced in LWI Region 5 and 2) assess both structural and non-structural regional measures. Structural flood measures consist of infrastructure development like levees, dams, or river dikes that modify the water's flow. Non-structural measures may consist of land use plans, higher standards, FEMA flood maps, flood insurance, building codes, flood forecasting, and early warning systems.

A second deliverable of the floodplain management approach involves improving the region's participation in the CRS program. APC will provide technical assistance for communities to enter or advance their community rating, train and equip local staff to implement best practices, facilitate community engagement and risk communication, and provide a vehicle for multi-jurisdictional collaboration.

Understanding existing vulnerabilities within each watershed and using this information to enhance CRS participation are critical initial steps for developing a resiliency plan to ultimately decrease loss of life and property.

PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR STATE LWI ACTIVITIES

Public outreach and communication are critical to the success of the statewide LWI program. APC will serve as a regional conduit for public information purposes. Communication responsibilities are primarily to disseminate information regarding the LWI program and more specifically to deploy a gauge network within 8 of the 16 LWI Region 5 parishes.

The CRS-Floodplain Coordinator and existing APC staff will initially be responsible for establishing and maintaining regional public information channels for LWI activities. State-led events and community outreach efforts will be co-organized with APC, as well as, offering continuing education opportunities for community flood risk. Information dissemination will occur through development of local email contact lists, updates to the APC website, monthly newsletters, and posts to social media. As with all APC-led initiatives, public engagement will be prioritized. Regional steering committee meetings and coalition meetings will be publicly accessible. Emails and communication materials will also be disseminated to interested community stakeholders.

A second component of the community outreach objective is to coordinate with LA OCD on the deployment of the State-led gauge network. For the past two years, Acadiana Planning Commission (APC) has worked to secure funding for designing and deploying a regional gauge network for the eight-parish service-area to monitor potential flooding and rainfall; and develop a web-based public visualization interface for communicating near-time / real-time alerts. This network will consist of a maximum of 230 stream-flow, rain, and non-contact sensors. This system would be incorporated into a pre-alert software platform for communication of real-time and/or near-time data and allow people to evacuate in the advance of a pending flood by providing information to parish emergency management officials and other agencies

about precipitation, storm water runoff, and weather conditions.

The project is pending final approval of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) by the LA Office of State Procurement. Upon approval, APC is prepared to initiate stakeholder engagement meetings in the following parishes:

- Acadia Parish
- Evangeline Parish
- Iberia Parish
- Lafayette City-Parish
- St. Landry Parish
- St. Martin Parish
- St. Mary Parish
- Vermilion Parish

SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING

Enabling a long-term structure for watershed coordination and governance is the primary outcome of the RCBG program. For the first year, the regional steering committee will outline potential scenarios for future watershed management that will later be finalized and implemented by the coalition. Several factors for consideration include governance type, policies and procedures for governance, committee representation, and possible funding sources.

Scenarios for governance may include a legislatively created entity or an entity governed by participating agreements much like the Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Governance will ultimately be jointly defined with the state; however, the RSC and the coalition's objective will be to identify a proposal that is conducive to local participation.

A crucial component of the adopted framework involves equitable representation from participating entities and ensuring that representation is consistent with local demographics. Solutions for public participation will also be factored into the development of a regional coalition.

Financial sustainability is a driving factor in the viability of the created coalitions and considers two primary components 1) coalition staffing and 2) project funding. To create the region's projected budget beyond the RCBG funding, the coalition needs to understand the costs required for maintaining program staff and potential revenue streams. It is anticipated that the State will provide guidance and resources to better define program sustainability. During the three-year period of the RCBG program, the RSC and coalition will have developed a capital improvement program and will have identified priority projects that alleviate systemic flooding. As HUD funds become available, the RSC and coalition will be tasked with allocating funding to priority projects. As projects are funded, the coalition will re-prioritize projects and match funding opportunities to eligible project types which may include Hazard Mitigation Funds through FEMA, CDBG-DR funds, Economic Development funds, Delta Regional Authority funds, and US Department of Agriculture.

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

Many existing state, regional and local organizations have limited experience or capacity related to watershed-specific issues, such as floodplain policy development and implementation, or related to analyzing impacts of floodplain policies on local and regional economies, natural and built environments, and wildlife and fisheries. Under this program, APC seeks to build local floodplain capacity by utilizing the watershed coalition and CRS-Floodplain Coordinator framework. The primary goal or long-term outcome of the regional program is to **Reduce Flood Risk by Increasing Resiliency Measures** in the LWI Region 5. Outlined below is the proposed implementation approach for increasing resiliency by 1) watershed steering committee and coalition coordination 2) development of a floodplain baseline assessment and offering local technical assistance 3) public outreach and coordination with the LWI program, and 4) planning for sustainability of the LWI Region 5 coordination.

Deployment of the sensor network involves a stakeholder vetting process to identify physical placement and to ensure local sustainability of the gauges deployed in each parish. The following 8 parishes are included in the APC Regional Gauge Network project and are proposed to be included in the state-led gauge network deployment:

Table 2.1

OBJECTIVE ONE: ESTABLISH AND COORDINATE A REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE AND COALITION TO OVERSEE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN LWI Region 5	
STRATEGIES	TIME FRAME
Stand-up the Regional Steering Committee	By December 2019
Develop a Capital Improvement Program	Begin April 2020
RSC identifies coalition structure, governance, and sustainability options	By December 2020
Identify regional best practices and mitigation solutions	Begin December 2020
Stand-up the Regional Coalition	By January 2021
Implement the governance framework set by RSC and Coalition	By December 2022
PROGRAM METRICS	
Attendance per meetings	
Diversity of disciplines / interests represented	

Activities to be Performed

Transparency and public involvement are integral to APC’s approach on watershed. To maximize participation, meeting notices will be posted in advance of meeting dates and multiple modes of communication will be used to disseminate information to include APC website postings, email distributions, and monthly newsletters. Upon RSC formation, members will be asked to participate in identifying long-term governance scenarios. Initially by-laws and meeting procedures will be developed for the RSC and for the coalition. Members will assist in the development of a Capital Improvement Program which will identify systemic drainage improvement projects and prioritize projects based on available funding opportunities.

Table 2.2

OBJECTIVE TWO: ENHANCE REGIONAL FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	
STRATEGIES	TIME FRAME
APC to hire a Regional CRS-Floodplain Coordinator	By March 2020
Provide local TA for CRS participation or advancement	Begin May 2020
Develop an inventory of existing flood-vulnerable conditions	By December 2022
PROGRAM METRICS	
CRS Score and/or the number of participating communities	
Total number of NFIP policies in the region	
Developed and adopted ordinances that reduce flood-risk	

Activities to be Performed

APC plans to hire a full-time CRS-Floodplain Coordinator who will primarily be responsible for conducting the existing conditions inventory and providing local technical assistance. Inventory collection will require involvement from the regional steering committee members to identify flood-vulnerabilities. The final product will be geospatially produced by existing APC personnel and published on an integrated web-

platform for public involvement. The coordinator is also tasked with developing a regional CRS group to exchange technical flood-risk mitigation information and identify best practice solutions for participation in or advancement of community ratings.

Table 2.3

OBJECTIVE THREE: COORDINATE LWI PUBLIC OUTREACH IN THE REGION	
STRATEGIES	TIME FRAME
Coordinate LWI Public Outreach	Begin January 2020
Collaborate with the LWI initiative on the deployment of 8-parish regional gauge network	By December 2020
PROGRAM METRICS	
Number of community events organized	
Number of public information pieces disseminated	
Number of attendees at events	

Activities to be Performed

As the LWI program progresses, APC will assist the state in implementing the proposed stakeholder engagement and public participation process. Multiple modes of communication will be used to disseminate information to include APC website postings, email distributions, and monthly newsletters. Sign-in and registration sheets are the methods for documenting event attendance. Additionally, implementation of the statewide gauge network and the Acadiana Regional Gauge Network will be strategically coordinated to leverage available resources.

Table 2.4

OBJECTIVE FOUR: DEVELOP A SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE	
STRATEGIES	TIME FRAME
Develop governance structure scenarios	By December 2020
Seek additional funding for the capital improvement program	Begin January 2021
Implement governance structure scenarios	By December 2022
PROGRAM METRICS	
Number of governance structure options	
Number of grant applications submitted	
Number or amount of capital projects funded	

Activities to be Performed

Upon RSC formation, members will be asked to participate in identifying long-term governance scenarios. Governance is anticipated to be jointly planned with LWI to determine a framework that unifies parishes, ensures equitable representation, and identifies potential long-term financial solutions. The coalition will be tasked with finalizing the sustainability plan initiated by the RSC and implementing that plan. External federal, state, and local funding will also be sought out to address those projects identified in the capital improvement plan.

PROGRAM STAFFING PLAN

Acadiana Planning Commission is staffed by 15 employees whose primary functions are to facilitate multi-jurisdictional planning for transportation, community and economic development, and the newly developed

program area – watershed. Staff members possess a variety of expertise that will be leveraged in watershed management activities. For the purposes of this grant and the expected deliverables therein, APC intends to utilize the skill sets of the following individuals at the level of effort indicated in Table 3.

Table 3

Employee	Employee Title	Level of Effort
Monique Boulet	Chief Executive Officer	13%
Rachel Godeaux	Community & Economic Director	35%
Planner II	CRS-Floodplain Coordinator	62%
Kade Jones	Planner I	30%
Phillip Breaux	Planner I / GIS Analyst	15%
Accounting and Admin	Administration	5 %

The education, employment background, and skill set that each above mentioned employee possesses are unique and provide the critical foundation required for successful program delivery.

1. Chief Executive Officer – Monique Boulet

Relative Experience'

Monique Boulet serves as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Acadiana Planning Commission, APC, serving Louisiana Planning District 4. Boulet was instrumental in the creation of the APC in 2015, building a regional organization that facilitates intergovernmental cooperation on a regional basis to provide an effective means of pooling the resources of local governments as Acadiana approaches common problems. Working through numerous legal and political hurdles, Boulet lead the effort to regionalize transportation planning in the Lafayette urbanized area with the formation of the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization.

In 2016, Boulet was selected by the National Organizations of Development Organizations, NADO, to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program, sponsored by the US Economic Development Administration, EDA, for up and coming leaders in regional planning throughout the country. Boulet received her Master of Business Administration in the Executive program from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2015.

Position Description

The Chief Executive Officer will provide broad project oversight and assist with policy issues that may prevent the program from successful delivery. The CEO will coordinate with the LA Office of Community Development, LA Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and the newly formed Executive Watershed Council to ensure that project delivery is coordinated with the State of Louisiana's efforts to improve watershed management.

2. Community and Economic Development Director – Rachel Godeaux

Relative Experience

Rachel Godeaux leads a team of Economic and Community Development professionals with the Acadiana Planning Commission. Rachel possesses nearly 10 years of professional experience in project management, grant administration, community-wide planning, coalition building, and project start-ups. Rachel has administered grants through the Department of Health and Hospitals, LA Highway Safety Commission, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Economic Development Administration and more. Prior to the Planning Commission, Rachel managed a community-wide substance use prevention program for the Lafayette Consolidated Government. Rachel obtained her Master's in Public Administration from the E.J. Ourso College of Business at Louisiana State University (LSU) with a concentration in Public Policy. At LSU she received the David B. Johnson Achievement Award.

Position Description

The Director is responsible for directly managing the program. Brings forth policy issues that are preventing successful project deliverables, conducts project formulation, project processing, grants management and closeout. The Director introduces potential solutions to these internal or external policies that are impeding progress, cash flow or services. The Director provides status reports and updates on progress to the CEO.

3. Planner II / CRS-Floodplain Coordinator- To Be Hired

Position Solicitation Notice

The Acadiana Planning Commission is seeking a Planner II / Regional CRS-Floodplain Coordinator. The candidate's primary responsibilities include facilitating the Louisiana Watershed Initiative's program activities; administering a floodplain program in compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations, as well as the Community Rating System (CRS) for NFIP; establishing a regional CRS program to assist communities in improving CRS ratings; and implementing other watershed management programs. The ideal candidate will possess experience in project management; considerable knowledge of FEMA and NFIP regulations regarding flood zones; understanding of sustainable project development; ability to assist in capital improvement plans; and be highly skilled in communicating technical flood risk mitigation information. Degrees in Governmental/ Environmental Studies, Planning, Hydrology/Hydraulics, Public Administration, or related field will be considered. A master's degree is preferred or an equivalent combination of education and experience. The candidate must have excellent oral and written communication skills; project management experience; have the ability to work effectively with local, state, and federal officials, interest groups, and the general public. This position may require public speaking, attendance of night meetings and travel. Applicant must have the ability to work independently and work well with others. Salary will be commensurate with experience and education. EOE/AEE. Send resume, salary history, and references to: info@planacadiana.org.

4. Planner I / Landscape Architectural Design -Kade Jones

Relative Experience

Kade Jones is a Regional Planner at Acadiana Planning Commission. As a 2019 graduate of the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture Master's Program at LSU, Kade brings a background of studio arts and design to the planning profession. During his time at LSU, Kade completed two semesters of coursework in urban planning and community development. That training has led to the development of his master level thesis project titled "The Corridor des Arts," a project involving creative placemaking, cultural landscapes, and responsible rural development in the Acadiana Region. Kade has over a year of experience as an intern with the Downtown Development District of Baton Rouge, assisting with projects and operating as a steward of the downtown area. While at LSU, Kade was the recipient of the LGFC Landscape Design Neil Christopher Scholarship, the Shady Oaks Garden Club Scholarship, and the LSU RRSLA scholarship.

Position Description

The Planner I will be responsible for assisting in the organization of RSC and coalition meetings, stakeholder meetings, and public outreach meetings. Tasks may include meeting notice distribution to ensure maximum participation. Meeting materials, tracking documents, and other printed materials may be edited and designed by the Planner I. Planner I will also support general program communication needs examples of this include program newsletters, email support, and website communication.

5. Planner I / Geospatial Analyst - Phillip Breaux, GISP

Phillip Breaux is a geospatial analyst and planner with a background in environmental science. He is a certified GIS professional, GISP #160571 and has worked at the federal, state and local level. Mr. Breaux has worked on state initiatives for emergency response and resiliency of natural disasters, state wide road network schemas, and data governance. Mr. Breaux participates in statewide data acquisition meetings and actively works with the Louisiana GIS Council. His multidisciplinary skills include, data interpretation, graphic design, remote sensing, traffic modeling, data collection, environmental science, city and regional planning.

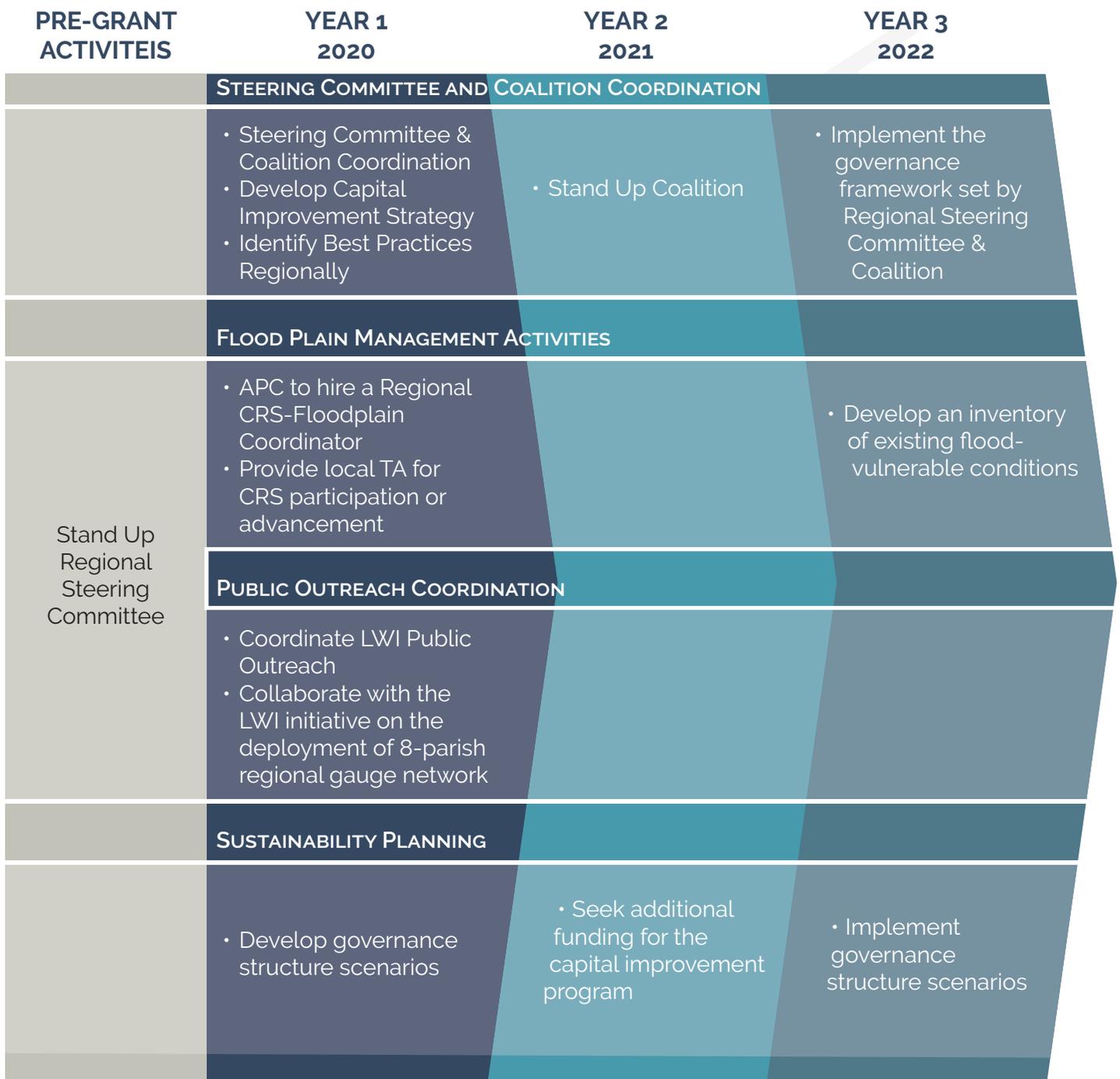
Mr. Breaux has managed regional aerial imagery collections along with geospatial systems development for the region. He has built partnerships with local 911's, EMS, tax assessors, planners and public and private GIS users for regional data collection, sharing and inventory.

Position Description

The Planner I/ Geospatial Analyst position will provide mapping and GIS support for product deliverables associated with floodplain management activities. As existing conditions are assessed, project outputs will be mapped and geospatially produced for public viewing.

PROPOSED PROGRAM TIMELINE

Figure 2



COST ESTIMATE FOR PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Table 4

ACTIVITY TYPE	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	COST ESTIMATE	PERCENT OF BUDGET
STEERING COMMITTEE AND COALITION COORDINATION ACTIVITIES	Establish a one-year regional steering committee and later a coalition to govern the watershed management activities.	TBD	42%
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	Conduct a regional vulnerability assessment and provide technical assistance to increase or advance CRS participation.	TBD	38%
PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR LWI ACTIVITIES	Perform outreach activities required by the LWI to include coordinating the deployment of gauges within 8 of the 16 parishes.	TBD	10%
SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING	Develop a long-term funding plan to sustain the CRS-Floodplain Coordinator's position and the regional coordination within the watershed.	TBD	10%

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

Below is a list of each parish represented in LWI Region 5 and their commitment to participate in the watershed management activities. Supporting documentation for each parish can be found in Appendix A.

Table 5

PARISH	ENTITY	FORM OF AGREEMENT
1. Acadia Parish	Parish Police Jury	Agreement Type TBD
2. Allen Parish	Parish Police Jury	Agreement Type TBD
3. Avoyelles Parish	Parish Police Jury	Agreement Type TBD
4. Calcasieu Parish	Parish Police Jury	Agreement Type TBD
5. Cameron Parish	Parish Police Jury	Agreement Type TBD
6. Evangeline Parish	Parish Police Jury	Agreement Type TBD
7. Iberia Parish	Parish Government	Agreement Type TBD
8. Iberville Parish	Parish Police Jury	Agreement Type TBD
9. Jeff Davis	Parish Police Jury	Agreement Type TBD
10. Lafayette City-Parish	City-Parish Government	Agreement Type TBD
11. Pointe Coupee Parish	Parish Police Jury	Agreement Type TBD
12. Rapides Parish	Parish Police Jury	Agreement Type TBD

13. St. Landry Parish	Parish Government	Agreement Type TBD
14. St. Martin Parish	Parish Government	Agreement Type TBD
15. St. Mary Parish	Parish Government	Agreement Type TBD
16. Vermilion Parish	Parish Police Jury	Agreement Type TBD

APPLICANT DISCLOSURE REPORT

A copy of the applicant disclosure report, providing details on other governmental assistance is documented in Appendix B.

PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET

FINAL BUDGET TO BE DETERMINED AT TIME OF SUBMISSION

CONCLUSION

At the lower end of the Mississippi river and above the Gulf Coast, Louisiana's geography makes it especially vulnerable to flooding. The floods of August 2016 catalyzed Acadiana into action by creating unprecedented networks of coordination among neighboring parishes. In partnership with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), FEMA, and LA OCD, Acadiana Planning Commission led an effort to prioritize projects and allocate funds across jurisdictional boundaries. This proposal expounds upon the work started back in 2016 to regionalize watershed planning and evaluate the systemic issues impacting the Teche, Vermilion, Mermentau, and Mermentau Headwaters. To build local capacity, APC proposes a watershed coordinator and floodplain management approach to serve the 16 parishes within LWI Region 5. Sustainability planning is critical to the ongoing success and future viability of watershed management activities. APC is eager to work with the state in defining potential solutions for long-term governance to better withstand future flooding events.

DRAFT