

Action Summary

Acadiana Watershed District Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



10am-12pm, Thursday, October 16th, 2025
Rosa Parks Transportation Center
101 Jefferson St.
Lafayette, LA 70501



AGENDA, NOTES AND DECISIONS

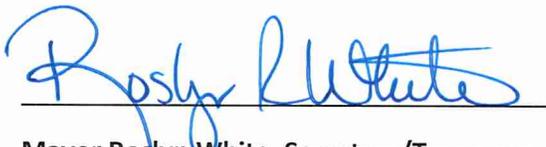
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME	<p>The meeting was called to order at 10:05am by Kelia Bingham, APC Watershed Coordinator.</p> <p>Opening Statement:</p> <p><i>" Welcome to public meeting of the Acadiana Watershed District's Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. I am Kelia Bingham, Watershed Coordinator for the District.</i></p> <p><i>Agendas are available at the room's entrance and were made available through the AWD email distribution list and online at planacadiana.org. For our records to reflect your attendance, please sign-in at the table and any Board or TAC members online, please add your name to the chat box.</i></p> <p><i>The purpose of this public meeting is to consider items established by the agenda. Public input is welcome on these matters. For those wishing to speak in-person, please complete a speaker card and present it to the APC staff. Comments/questions will be read aloud during the public comment period. To ensure an orderly meeting, members of the public will speak at the time designated. Each organization may be permitted one representative to speak for 3 minutes on its behalf and individual public members are permitted 3 minutes. This will be strictly enforced. Thank you."</i></p>
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	<p>Kelia Bingham led the Pledge of Allegiance, and all stood and recited the pledge.</p>
ROLL CALL	<p>Roll call was taken by Kelia Bingham.</p>

<p>MEETING MINUTES REVIEW FROM JULY 17TH</p>	<p>Kelia Bingham reviewed the meeting minutes from July 17th. The TAC did not vote to adopt the minutes as the Board had previously approved the minutes at the August 28th meeting.</p>
<p>REGIONAL PROJECT CRITERIA UPDATE</p>	<p>Kelia Bingham stated that the Board did not have any questions on the criteria. However, they did want to review it more thoroughly before the final vote at the next Board meeting, which is scheduled for November 13th.</p>
<p>HYDRORISE PROJECT</p>	<p>Kelia Bingham introduced the Hydro-Rise project, a National Science Foundation-funded initiative involving six universities, including UL, to develop tools and strategies for reducing climate-driven water hazards. The team is developing a Flood Hazard Vulnerability Index for South-Central Louisiana, focusing on parishes in Region 5.</p> <p>This project aims to create an index that reflects the local flood vulnerability like flood insurance, access to transportation, or income challenges. The team will build the tool with local stakeholders to help guide flood risk reduction and resource allocation decisions.</p>
<p>SOUTHWEST LA & CENTRAL ACADIANA RESILIENT FUTURE PROJECT</p>	<p>This project is NOAA funded and implemented by Tulane University's ByWater Institute and involves all the parishes of AWD as well as LWI Region 4 and the indigenous tribes in the region. The project addresses our changing climate and its impacts through planning, projects, programs & policies. Dr. Simone Domingue and Dr. Sharon Hausam emphasized the project's focus on climate hazards</p> <p>The project involves two committees - a governance committee and a community committee - working to address multiple climate hazards including flooding, extreme heat, and wildfires. The team is conducting a community survey to gather input on local priorities and concerns, while also reviewing existing plans and coordinating with tribal nations and local governments to avoid duplicating efforts. The project aims to create a long-lasting regional coordination mechanism that will continue beyond the current funding period.</p>
<p>FLOOD RESILIENCE PLANNING TOOL</p>	<p>The planning tool was created by the Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX). Macey Williams and Dr. Denise Reed explained the tool's purpose, which is to support local and regional resilience planning in Acadiana by aligning strategies, evaluating projects, and fostering comprehensive resilience. The tool was developed through a collaborative process involving input from the Acadiana Planning Commission and the 2023 Louisiana Resilience Report. The presenters highlighted the tool's ability to</p>

	evaluate individual projects and their contribution to broader regional flood resilience goals, emphasizing its application at both local and regional scales.
MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES	<p>The USFW National Fish Passage Program Notice of Funding Opportunity - provides technical and financial assistance to partners to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic connectivity, improve community safety, and support local economies. Fish passage projects benefit communities by reducing flood risk, improving recreational opportunities, and improving roads while supporting native fish populations and aquatic ecosystems. There is no cost-share, but this grant is highly competitive. The total program funding is \$10M with \$1M as the award ceiling for a project. Applications are due on December 31st.</p> <p>The LWI Nature Based Explorer Tool and Training is coming soon.</p> <p>At the January or April TAC meeting, the committee can bring projects to the meeting to run through the project regional criteria. This will be discussed more as the next meeting approaches.</p>
NEXT MEETING	TBD – January 2026
PUBLIC COMMENT	There was no public comment.
ADJOURNMENT	Jessica Cornay made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Brent Domingue seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 11:29am.
MEETING DETAILS	
CONTACT	Kelia Bingham, LWI Region 5 Watershed Coordinator kbingham@planacadiana.org or (337) 446-0807
ADA/TITLE VI NOTICE	The Acadiana Planning Commission (APC) convenes public meetings in accessible locations. Meeting materials can be provided in accessible formats and in languages other than English upon request. If you would like accessibility or language accommodation, please contact the ADA/Title VI Coordinator via email at amoran@planacadiana.org: or by phone at 337-806-9364. If you wish to attend an APC function and require special accommodation, please provide at least 72 hours advanced notice.
ATTENDANCE_RECORD	

<p>ATTENDEES</p>	<p><u>Delegates Present:</u> CPRA – Dion Broussard USACE – Issac Mudge At-Large Member – Jessica Cornay At-Large Member – Richard Greig At-Large Member - Brad Lambert for Cassidy Lejeune</p> <p><u>Others Present</u> APC – Sara Gary APC – Kelia Bingham APC – Sean Reed APC – Kade Jones CPRA – Ivy Thibodeaux Evangeline Parish Police Jury – Jody Snoddy South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center – Dr. Sharon Hausum Tulane University ByWater Institute – Dr. Simone Dominuge Fenstermaker – Carly Phillips Bayou Vermilion District – Stephen Broussard Bayou Vermilion District – Karen Hail Vermilion Parish Police Jury – Tommy McGinnis</p>
<p>ABSENTEES</p>	<p><u>Delegates Absent:</u> LA SWCD IV – Chris Vosburg Teche-Vermilion Watershed District – Donald Sagraera UL Watershed Flood Center – Emad Habib USDA NRCS – Andrew Coombs</p>

Minutes approved on 02/26/26 by the Acadiana Watershed District Board.



Mayor Roslyn White, Secretary/Treasurer
Acadiana Watershed District