

Action Summary

Acadiana Watershed District Board Meeting Minutes



10am-12pm, Thursday, August 28th, 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 10:10am by Rachel Godeaux, Vice Chair of the Acadiana Watershed District.</p> <p>Opening Statement:</p> <p><i>" Welcome to public meeting of the Acadiana Watershed District's Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. I am Rachel Godeaux, Vice Chair of 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>Rachel Godeaux led the Pledge of Allegiance, and all stood and recited the pledge.</p>
ROLL CALL	<p>Roll call was taken by Kelia Bingham. A quorum was present.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">OFFICER NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS</p>	<p>There was a motion by Mayor White to keep the same officers for one year: Chair – Jacob Landry Vice Chair – Rachel Godeaux Secretary/Treasurer – Roslyn White</p> <p>VOTE: YEA – 11 NAY – 0 ABSENT – 7</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">REPORT OUT – TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE JULY 17TH MEETING</p>	<p>Kelia Bingham gave the following report out:</p> <p>The Technical Advisory Committee met on July 17th and reviewed and finalized the regional project criteria for the Board’s approval. The LWI gauges are now under DOTD where only 41 locations have flow data. The Acadiana Regional Gauge Project is active where approval of DENR and USACE permits are pending as well as an approval of a transfer of disaster funding from FEMA. Since the Board is deciding on a path to take for sustainable funding of the AWD, the CRS User Group, RAIN, as well as a goal to increase CRS participation will be on hold. Another item on hold is the regional flood communication system. Allie Olsonoski, Project Manager, with the Environmental Defense Fund presented on the Southwest Coastal Louisiana Project Home Elevations Program. This project is 100% voluntary and there is no cost share. Allie Olsonoski will present this program to the AWD Board in November.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ACTION SUMMARIES APPROVAL</p>	<p>There was a motion to approve the meeting meetings for the following by Mayor White and seconded by Jacob Coco. All were in favor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Meetings of February 27th and May 15th • TAC Meetings of March 18th, April 17th and July 17th <p>VOTE: YEA – 11 NAY – 0 ABSENT – 7</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">VISION & MISSION STATEMENTS APPROVAL</p>	<p>A motion to approve the Vision & Mission statements was made by Mayor White and seconded by Jacob Coco. All were in favor.</p>

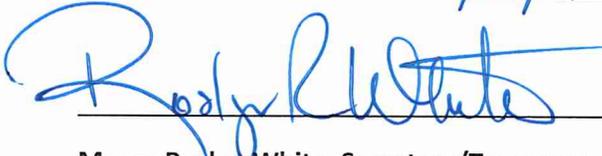
	<p>VOTE: YEA – 11 NAY – 0 ABSENT – 7</p>
<p>BYLAWS AMENDMENTS APPROVAL</p>	<p>There were two proposed amendments to the AWD Bylaws concerning Officer Elections and Board Member Attendance. These were discussed by the Board with further amendments proposed. The Board discussed officer election terms, deciding that officers can serve for up to two consecutive years in any single position but can run for different positions after a one-year hiatus. They also reviewed attendance requirements for board members, which specify that members must attend at least two quarterly meetings per year, with provisions for medical excuses. The board agreed to defer voting on both items until their November meeting, allowing time to revise the language regarding attendance consequences. The Board did agree that a follow-up with absent members needs to happen to determine reasons for non-attendance.</p> <p>There was a motion to defer the vote to approve the amendments at the November 13th Board meeting by Matt Johns and seconded by Mayor White.</p> <p>VOTE: YEA – 11 NAY – 0 ABSENT – 7</p>
<p>REGIONAL PROJECT CRITERIA</p>	<p>The Board reviewed and discussed the regional project criteria. This will be voted on at the next Board meeting in November. Vice Chair Rachel Godeaux did ask to add priority projects in the draft regional watershed plan and to update the Board on that plan.</p>
<p>2026 BOARD MEETING ALTERNATING VENUES</p>	<p>Members of the Board did bring up alternating the Board meeting venue and time for 2026. However, there were no objections to keeping the Board meetings at their current location and time for 2026.</p>
<p>SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OPTIONS APPROVAL</p>	<p>The basic funding budget (administrative to keep the meetings going) was reviewed as well as three options for funding a basic budget of \$250K. Option 1: Parish Dues Based on Per Capita Population; Option 2: Parish Dues Spilt Evenly Over 16 Parishes; Option 3: Parish Dues Based on Square Miles of Parish. These numbers are based on the boundaries of the watershed district.</p> <p>The Board reviewed the fairness of each option for the basic funding budget as the Board may pursue a stormwater fee for sustainable funding. Once a stormwater fee is established for the comprehensive budget, then these dues will no longer be in effect.</p> <p>The question of non-participation was brought up. In this case the AWD legislation may have to be amended to have those parishes as non-voting, ex-officio members OR amend bylaws to state that if a parish does not pay into the AWD, then that parish does not get a project. However, projects may have to go through a non-voting parish to be completed.</p>

	<p>Language options can be explored on what can be added to the bylaws about parish non-participation and language options provided at the November Board meeting.</p> <p>Hard decisions will need to be made by the Board on non-participation as well as consideration of amending the AWD legislation on participating parishes and boundaries of the District.</p> <p>OCD will give a no-cost extension for one year on current funding to December 2026.</p> <p>At the November meeting, the Board can discuss (if OCD allows) using leftover funds to hire a stormwater consultant on how to best and legally impose a stormwater fee.</p> <p>A timeline for implementation of parish dues and a stormwater fee can be provided at the November Board meeting. This also depends on parish budget cycles.</p> <p>To implement a stormwater fee, a comprehensive informative/education campaign will take place for every parish council/police jury as well as host several public meetings to inform citizens of the purpose of a proposed AWD stormwater fee.</p> <p>The stormwater fee would allow the District to maintain the regional watershed models as well as provide match for regional projects as state and federal funds require a match. Another main element would be to reduce flood insurance premiums for residential and commercial buildings through parish participation in the NFIP Community Rating System (CRS). Only one parish out of 16 in the AWD participates in CRS. With funding, the goal would have all the parishes in the District participate in CRS. Kelia Bingham provided What If? Statements to the Board that was provided by Stefanie Weeks (former Lafayette Parish Floodplain Administrator). These statements show flood insurance discounts in the parish IF they would participate in the program. The CRS program cost to participate can be explored.</p> <p>A motion to defer this item until the November Board meeting was made by Mayor White and seconded by Parish President Sam Jones. All were in favor.</p> <p>VOTE: YEA – 11 NAY – 0 ABSENT – 7</p>
<p>MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES</p>	<p>Action Requested – APC would like the AWD Board to give permission to the Chair to approve and sign support letters (name only, no funding commitment). Parish President Sam Jones motioned to approve this, and Mayor White seconded this motion provided the support letters will be reported to the Board when signed. All were in favor.</p> <p>VOTE: YEA – 11 NAY – 0 ABSENT – 7</p> <p>An update on the Acadiana Regional Gauge Network Project was given as APC is waiting for permit approvals from DENR and USACE as well as a transfer of funds from the original disaster budget to complete the project due to increase in costs.</p>

	Jacob Landry will ask if Michael Hare with CPRA could give an update on CURRENT at the November meeting. Philip Parker with CPRA did inform the group that anyone can submit projects for the CPRA 2029 Master Plan online until October.
PUBLIC COMMENT	There was no public comment.
NEXT MEETING DATE	November 13 th at 10am
ADJOURNMENT	<p>Matt Johns made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sam Jones seconded that motion.</p> <p>VOTE: YEA – 11 NAY – 0 ABSENT – 7</p>
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	
ATTENDEES	<p><u>Delegates Present:</u> Acadia Parish – Earl Garber Allen Parish – Tylrier Tullier Avoyelles – Jacob Coco Evangeline – Dirk Deville Lafayette – Rachel Godeaux Rapides – Matt Johns St. Landry – Van Reed St. Mary – Sam Jones</p>

ABSENTEES	<p>Vermilion – Keith Roy House Committee Natl Resources & Env – Rep. Jacob Landry Senate Committee Natl Resources – Mayor White</p> <p><u>Others Present</u> At-Large TAC Member – Richard Greig CPRA – Philip Parker CPRA – Ivy Thibodeaux LA Legislature – Rep. Troy Hebert Fenstermaker – Rhett Hebert Fenstermaker – Mohamed Awaad Evangeline Parish Police Jury – Jody Snoddy UL Watershed Flood Center – Emad Habib HDR Engineering – Garland Pennison Freese & Nichols – Whitney Broussard Freese & Nichols – Jim Keith Bayou Vermilion District – Karen Hail APC – Sara Gary APC – Kelia Bingham APC – Kade Jones APC – Sean Reed</p> <p><u>Delegates Absent:</u> Calcasieu – Terry Frelot Cameron – Kara Bonsall Iberia – Ben Langlinais Iberville – John Clark Jefferson Davis – Kori Myers Pointe Coupee – Nathan Cobb St. Martin – Chris Tauzin</p>
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Minutes approved on 02/26/26 by the Acadiana Watershed District Board.



**Mayor Roslyn White, Secretary/Treasurer
Acadiana Watershed District**