

Action Summary



LWI Region 5 Steering Committee

10am-12pm, Thursday, December 9, 2021
Rosa Parks Transportation Center
Multipurpose Room 116
101 Jefferson Street, Lafayette, LA 70501



AGENDA, NOTES AND DECISIONS

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, & COMMITTEE ROLL CALL	<p>Donald Bergeron of the Evangeline Parish Police Jury called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed everyone in attendance both in person and virtually via Zoom and Facebook Live at facebook.com/AcadianaPlanningCommission. The meeting was made available to the public via live stream on Facebook Live. The recording of the full meeting is available at planacadiana.org/watershed/lwi-region-5/.</p> <p>“Opening Statement: Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to this public meeting of the Region 5 Steering Committee. I am Donald Bergeron, representative of Evangeline Parish, and will lead the meeting today.</p> <p>Agendas are available at the room’s entrance and were made available through email and online at planacadiana.org.</p> <p>For our records to reflect your attendance please sign-in at the table or drop a message in the chat box listing your name and affiliation.</p> <p>The purpose of this public meeting is to consider items established by the agenda. Public input is welcome on these items. However, to ensure an orderly meeting, members of the public shall 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. For those wishing to speak in-person, complete a speaker card and present it to the APC staff. For members of the public participating online, please submit your comments and questions in the chat box. Comments/questions will be read aloud during the public comment period.”</p>
ROLL CALL & PUBLIC INTRODUCTIONS	<p>Kelia Bingham of Acadiana Planning Commission called roll for the steering committee members’ attendance. A quorum was present.</p>

<p>APPROVE MEETING MINUTES</p> <p><i>(formal action)</i></p>	<p>A motion was made by Earl Garber and seconded by Scooter Trosclair to approve the meeting minutes from the October 21, 2021 LWI Region 5 Steering Committee Meetings. The motion was approved unanimously.</p> <p>VOTE: 10-0-6: Yea –10; Nay – 0; Absent – 6</p> <p>Action summaries from the sub-committee meetings were distributed to the Region 5 Steering Committee members for their reference.</p>
<p>LA WATERSHED INITIATIVE UPDATES</p>	<p>Donald Bergeron introduced Bradley Spiegel with the Louisiana OCD for LWI updates. Bradley Spiegel announced the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Nature Training Series Program – Module 3 training session is scheduled for Wednesday December 15 at 1pm. Nature Based Solutions In Urban Areas featuring Dana Brown and Moncus Park with Elizabeth Brooks. <p>Bradley then introduced Kay LeSage with LA OCD for the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Support Pilot Program-. LA OCD has developed a program based on the Round 1 applications. OCD is reviewing Round 1 applications to identify those that may be eligible for technical assistance to have a complete application. Applications that were not submitted in Round 1 are not eligible for this technical assistance. OCD hopes to start the technical assistance outreach to potential applicants in January. It has \$100M allocated currently This is a portion of the Round 2 funds that have been designated to this design support program that is particular to addressing the needs of Round 1. The remainder of the funds that are allocated in the action plan as Round 2 will be open to everyone. Henry Consulting will be helping to organize the technical assistance with applicants. <p>This is Bradley’s final LWI Region 5 meeting as he has taken on a new position. Nicolette Jones introduced Kathleen Lunn. Kathleen will be working with Henry Consulting on outreach, promotion of legislation, and technical assistance.</p>
<p>SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT OUTS</p> <p>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM</p>	<p>The CIP Subcommittee met on November 4. OCD updated the committee on projects. There was a total of six Round 1 projects in Region 5 – state and regional award processes – and award letters have been issued. Earl Garber asked the LA OCD representatives if the notice to proceed been issued for these projects.</p> <p>The committee was also given an update on Round 2 and the Design Support Pilot Program and that was clarified earlier during the LWI updates. The LWI National Based Solutions training has begun, and two modules have been presented. The next module is on 12/15 at 1pm titled, “Designing with Nature-Based Solutions in Urban Areas.</p>

<p>GOVERNANCE AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINIABILITY</p>	<p>We previously had the steering committee vote to pursue FEMA’s BRIC (Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities) funding opportunity. The project of focus is the Upper Bayou Nezpique project that can benefit 6 parishes (Evangeline, Rapides, Allen, Jeff Davis, Acadia, and Calcasieu) and the Mermentau Watershed. The Evangeline Parish Police Jury will be the applicant and Pan American Engineers may be able to assist with the that application. The due date is January 28, 2022. More information is being gathered to for this project and a meeting with the owners of Miller’s Lake is forthcoming. The goal of this project is to increase the storage capacity in the lake and associated wetlands to reduce peak flow downstream.</p> <p>Alicia Wiltz, APC GIS Analyst, did present a draft of the Region 5 Comprehensive Project Inventory. A refined preliminary version was presented later in this meeting.</p> <p>Donald Bergeron introduced Matt Johns to provide the Governance and Long-term Sustainability report of activities.</p> <p>The Governance & Long-Term Sustainability Subcommittee met on September 16. A legislative update was provided by the state. The Governor’s office is now working on a draft legislative package based on the regional recommendations presented to the Council on Watershed Management on August 5. The package will contain the regional and statewide framework (regions under the state). This framework will be turned into a draft legislative bill. The Council is working under the Governor’s Executive Order to make coordinated watershed management long term. A draft legislative package (bill) is expected by the end of 2021 or early 2022. Once the Governor approves the draft, the Watershed Coordinators can provide information that is in the bill to Committee Members.</p> <p>Region 5 flood coordination strategy is still in progress and includes Region 5’s 16 parishes, GOHSEP, and the USACE. Updates will be made at the next Governance and Long-term Sustainability Subcommittee meeting.</p>
<p>PRELIMINARY COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT INVENTORY</p>	<p>A draft of the Comprehensive Project Inventory GIS Application was displayed on screen for the steering committee. This DRAFT (preliminary) Comprehensive Project Inventory was shown to the subcommittee in November. The foundation for this inventory is the previous “wish list” inventory which is being built upon to provide a data inventory for future watershed projects. Alicia Wiltz, GIS Analyst with APC, provided a presentation on the online tool.</p> <p>The goal of this tool is to satisfy the role outlined in the Governance Recommendation Project Development & Implementation that states:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide planning, technical assistance, and regional funding for projects to include LWI Phase Two & Three 2. Seek out external funding opportunities 3. Act as a clearinghouse for projects impacting the watershed

	<p>4. Assist in funding O&M costs for projects</p> <p>The goal is to have all watershed projects in Region 5 in this inventory including past projects. APC will be contacting each parish's engineer or public works director soon to get information on past flood mitigation/control projects that has had a regional impact. The goal is to have each parish within the region present on their projects in a series of presentations starting at the next Region 5 Steering Committee meeting on February 10, 2022. This comprehensive tool will also be used for future flood mitigation/prevention projects as the steering committee collaborates within the region and neighboring watershed regions.</p>
NFIP CRS USER GROUP UPDATE	<p>A goal of the Region 5 Steering Committee is Outreach and Engagement. As stated in the governance recommendation, there is a need to "create public awareness of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) program and to establish a CRS user group." APC held a regional CRS User Group Kickoff Meeting on April 20, 2021, and a second meeting on November 16, 2022. UNO Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology (CHART) helped facilitate the meeting as they are contracted with LWI to help watershed regions with their CRS. The meeting featured guest speakers Pam Lightfoot, State NFIP/CRS Program Manager & Floodplain Management, Coordinator with DOTD, and Mechelle Olivier, CRS Technical Coordinator with ISO – Verisk Analytics. The benefits and challenges of CRS were reviewed as well as a baseline assessment for participation. There are only 2 parishes (Lafayette, Calcasieu) participating in CRS in Region 5. A major gap is communicating the importance of CRS to elected officials. The goal is to get more participation in Region 5. APC is anticipating hosting a meeting in February.</p>
SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS	<p>All meetings will be held in the same format. R5SC members may participate in-person and the public is encouraged to attend online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Steering Committee Meeting, Thursday, February 10th, 10am – 12pm • CIP Subcommittee Meeting, Thursday, January 6th, 10am – 12pm • Governance & Long-Term Sustainability Meeting, Thursday, January 20th, 10am – 12pm
MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES	<p>LWI NBS webinar (training module 3) titled, Designing with nature-based solutions in urban areas will take place on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 from 1pm to 2pm. Guest speakers will be landscape architect, Dana Brown, and Elizabeth "EB" Brooks, Founder of Moncus Park in Lafayette.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENT	<p>There was no public comment.</p>
MEETING ADJOURNMENT	<p>A motion was made by Earl Garber and seconded by Jessica Cornay to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.</p> <p>VOTE: 10-0-6: Yea –10; Nay – 0;</p>

	Absent – 6
MEETING DETAILS	
CONTACT	<p>Kelia Bingham, LWI Region 5 Watershed Coordinator, (337) 446-0807</p> <p>Rachel Godeaux, APC Meeting Facilitator, (337) 806-9373</p> <p>Kade Jones, APC Meeting Facilitator, (337) 806-9376</p>
NEXT REGION 5 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING	February 10, 2022 at 10am
ADA/TITLE VI NOTICE	<p>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 clacomb@planacadiana.org; or by phone at 337-806-9370 (voice), 337-866-7081 (fax). If you wish to attend an APC function and require special accommodations, please provide at least 72 hours advanced notice.</p>
ATTENDANCE RECORD	
ATTENDEES	<p><u>Delegates Present:</u></p> <p>Acadia Parish - Earl Garber Allen - Gardner Rose Avoyelles – Jacob Coco Calcasieu - Terry Frelot Cameron – Scooter Trosclair Evangeline - Donald Bergeron Lafayette –Jessica Cornay Rapides – Matt Johns St. Martin – Chester Cedars St. Mary - Tim Matte APC Appoint – Dr. Emad Habib</p> <p><u>Others Present</u></p> <p>Monique Boulet, APC Rachel Godeaux, APC</p>

	<p>Kelia Bingham, APC Alicia Wiltz, APC Kade Jones, APC Alex Guillory, Blue Wing Consultants, Lafayette Parish Bradley Spiegel, OCD-LWI Kay LeSage, OCD Nicolette Jones, OCD-LWI Sara Gary, APC</p>
ABSENTEES	<p><u>Primary Delegates Absent:</u> Iberia – Larry Richard Iberville - John Clark Jefferson Davis – John Marceaux Pointe Coupee – Mark Ward St. Landry - Karl Aucoin Vermilion - Ralph Libersat APC Appoint - Donald Sagrera APC Appoint - Pamela Granger</p>

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