

LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE
REGION 4 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
REGULAR MEETING

January 27, 2021

1:30 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mr. Alberto Galan called the meeting to order 1:35 pm

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Alberto Galan, Mr. Jacob Marceaux, Mr. Matt Johns, Gardner Rose, Mr. Alex Guillory, Kara Bonsall (via Zoom), Mr. Thomas Fontcuberta (via Zoom), Mr. Carl Thompson (via Zoom)

Not Present: Mr. Jason Hebert, Mr. William Ruffin, Mr. Bill Sabine

Others Present: Mike Hollier (IMCAL), Ms. Jennifer Cobian (Calcasieu Parish), Terry Frelot (Calcasieu Parish), Amber Downs (Calcasieu Parish), Brad Spiegel (LA OCD), Nicolette Jones (LA OCD), Ms. Stephanie Boh (LWI Watershed Coordinator), Mr. Edward Anthony (LWI Watershed Coordinator),

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Jacob Marceaux led the Invocation.

Mr. Jacob Marceaux led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Meeting Minutes Approval

Take appropriate action to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020, Regional 4 Region Steering Committee meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Matt Johns and seconded by Mr. Jacob Marceaux, and the motion result was Passed.

5. Approval of new monthly meeting date and time for future RSC meetings

A motion to approve the future meeting date as the 4th Wednesday of each month was made by Mr. Matt Johns and seconded by Mr. Jacob Marceaux, and the motion result was Passed.

6. Governance Exercise Overview provided from OCD

A summary of the Who, the What, and the How exercises was provided by Brad Spiegel, detailing the process of creating the Provisional Governance Recommendation document.

7. LWI Region 4 - Provisional Governance Recommendations

See the complete Provisional Governance Recommendation after page 4 of meeting minutes.

Updates following RSC review of the draft Louisiana Watershed Initiative - Region 4 Provisional Governance Recommendation are provided below as a summary:

- Regional Summary

Planning and Development Regulation

Facilitate a watershed plan that may accomplish the following: more accurately identify flood risk in the region; identify potential areas for retention, discharge, and preservation; provide guidance and recommendations regarding development best practices; identify and prioritize potential regional watershed projects

Project Implementation

Develop a regional pool of funds for regional mitigation planning and regional watershed projects

- Roadmap to Implementing this Recommendation

Before the decision was made to determine who would facilitate all meetings of the Coalition and perform administrative functions related to the work of the Coalition.

Michael Hollier – Provided an update from the Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning and Development Commission (IMCAL) and its developing capacity and growth. IMCAL is interested in collaborating with LWI and has no existing conflict preventing working with LWI.

Option 2: IMCAL with a TAC

- IMCAL manages day-to-day operations
- Advised by TAC with representation from existing entities within the watershed region
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts from the region serve on the committee

A motion to approve Option 2: IMCAL with a TAC was made by Mr. Matt Johns and seconded by Mr. Jacob Marceaux, and the motion result was Passed.

The coalition should be enabled by a combination of legislation via a state commission as well as locally in accordance with the state charter.

The coalition should be composed of a mix of public and private representatives and include a technical advisory committee. The technical advisory committee members should not be a part of the watershed coalition but should act as subject matter experts and make recommendations to the coalitions.

The coalition should have oversight by a state agency that provides technical support, coordination among regions, and state-level management.

A motion to approve the Provisional Governance document with edits made by Ms. Jennifer Cobian and by RSC Members by Mr. Matt Johns and seconded by Ms. Kara Bonsall and the motion result was Passed (7-0) with no objections. Jacob Marceaux participated in the discussion, left for an emergency appointment before the vote

8. Receive any additional updates from OCD

- The deadline to provide a provisional recommendation to OCD is January 31st
- Round 1 Update: Deadline extended to Feb. 26. [Click here](#) for program information and timeline.
- The state will announce awards for \$60 mil in April 2021
- Regional recommendations for \$40 mil (\$5 mil per watershed region) will be due in July 2021

9. Update on LWI statewide modeling effort

No update

10. General discussion or update from each parish and tribe, if any, regarding this initiative and project, infrastructure, modeling, or other identified needs that exist within each Parish to begin goal and priority setting for Region 4.

Allen Parish – Not present

Beauregard Parish – No update

Calcasieu Parish – No update

Cameron Parish – No update

Coushatta Tribe – No update

DeSoto Parish – No update

Jeff Davis Parish – No update

Rapides Parish – No update

Sabine Parish – Not present

Vernon Parish – No Update

11. Adjournment.

Mr. Alex Guillory motioned, and Mr. Gardner Rose seconded to adjourn the meeting.