

26-Dec-20
25-Mar-21
7
N/A – Planning Activities
Planning, HCDA Sec. 105(a)(12)
131,907.93

RCBG PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT

REPORTING CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT PERSON NAME	Rachelle Sanderson
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WATERSHED COORDINATION METRICS

HOURS OF WORK PERFORMED (by Watershed Coordinator)	455.5
NUMBER OF MEETINGS FACILITATED	(1) January 7 RSC meeting (2) January 28 RSC meeting (3) February 25 RSC meeting (4) March 23 RSC meeting (5) Tangipahoa, Ascension, St. Tammany Gauge network meeting (6) Tangipahoa Watershed Committee meeting (7) Provisional governance recommendation outreach meetings, see pages 4 and 5 of the narrative report
ATTENDANCE PER MEETING	(1) January 7 RSC meeting, 59 people (2) January 28 RSC meeting, 73 people (3) February 25 RSC meeting, 67 people (4) March 23 RSC meeting, 67 people (5) Tangipahoa, Ascension, St. Tammany Gauge network meeting, 19 people (6) Tangipahoa Watershed Committee meeting, 13 people (7) Provisional governance recommendation outreach meetings, see pages 4 and 5 of the narrative report
DIVERSITY OF DISCIPLINES/INTERESTS REPRESENTED AT MEETINGS	RSC members, CRPC staff, Parish staff and elected officials, NGO staff, concerned citizens, home builders associations, OCD consultants, municipal staff and elected officials, universities, EPA, and state employees
DESCRIPTION OF OTHER COORDINATION ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN	See attached narrative document

REGIONAL CAPACITY ANALYSIS AND REGULATORY REVIEW METRICS

DESCRIPTION OF DELIVERABLES COMPLETED BY LSU OR WITH INPUT BY LSU	In progress. LSU continues to do work on (1) plan evaluation networks (2) evaluation of subdivision codes (3) assist with the build out of a governance structure and (4) work to ensure consistency and leveraging of other deliverables. See the attached narrative for more information.
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2021 PUBLIC OUTREACH METRICS (Q1 & Q2) * please note that this only reflects meetings with regards to the Region 7 Provisional Governance Recommendation

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY EVENTS/STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS (TOTAL)	0
NUMBER OF MEETINGS WITH LOCAL OR REGIONAL OR REGIONAL PUBLIC OFFICIALS	12
NUMBER OF MEETINGS WITH TRIBAL OFFICIALS	0 - there are no federally recognized tribes in Region 7 and based on the information that we have found, there are no state recognized tribes with offices or districts represented in Region 7 (if this is incorrect, we would love build a relationship with Indigenous nations in the region)
TYPES OF SPECIAL INTEREST STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ENGAGED	Parish staff and elected officials and NGOs
NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED	N/A, these were one-to-one conversations with elected officials and their staffers. Notes were taken and will be recorded and will be incorporated into the analysis of feedback and comments for the RSC to consider in public meetings as we work to incorporate feedback into the final governance recommendation

CRS PARTICIPATION METRICS

CRS SCORES AND/OR NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES (one input per year)	Updates were provided in the Q3 2020 report
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NARRATIVE

Please describe additional capacity-building activities conducted during the quarter.

See attached narrative document



LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE



REGION 7

2021 QUARTER 1 (01/01/2021 – 03/31/2021) REPORT NARRATIVE

Rachelle Sanderson
Regional Watershed Coordinator (Region 7)
Capital Region Planning Commission



WHAT PROGRESS HAS YOUR ORGANIZATION ACHIEVED IN MEETING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES LAID OUT IN THE PROPOSAL?

Please note that due to COVID-19, all meetings listed below were hosted virtually on Zoom.

Regional Steering Committee

JANUARY 7, 2021 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (RSC) MEETING

This meeting focused on getting final feedback from the RSC on the specifics of the Provisional Governance Recommendation and prepared them for a formal vote during the January 28 meeting.

MILESTONE MEETING JANUARY 28, 2021 RSC MEETING

This meeting further reviewed the draft Provisional Governance Recommendation and focused on a committee vote. The Provisional Governance Recommendation passed with twelve yays, two nays. Three member affiliations were not represented.

FEBRUARY 25, 2021 RSC MEETING

This meeting focused on:

1. Providing context for next steps after the adoption of the Provisional Governance Recommendation.
2. Discussing the region's role in Round 1 project selection and comparing the pros/cons of leveraging the state's project selection process or creating a region-specific process.

MARCH 23, 2021 RSC MEETING

This meeting focused on:

1. Providing RSC members, and other viewers, with information on LWI Funding Strategies to consider.
2. Determining if the RSC would leverage the state's Round 1 project selection process or if it would create a new decision-making process that is specific to the region for Round 1. The informal decision was to leverage the state's Round 1 project selection process.

Capacity Building

Capacity building for this quarter focused on building relationships across the region and identifying shared challenges and opportunities. This was done by completing, or beginning, the following activities:

CONTINUED WATERSHED COORDINATOR COMMUNITY CALLS

In the previous report, the setup of Watershed Coordinator Community calls was established as an intentional space for Watershed Coordinators to find consistency and alignment in activities and to share existing knowledge around existing challenges and opportunities. Since the establishment of these discussions, watershed coordinators have found strategic paths forward and alignment around the work through various efforts related to the long-term governance structures across the state.



ONE-TO-ONE CALLS WITH STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS

Intentional conversations are scheduled on an on-going basis with strategic stakeholders who are a part of existing organizations, and governments, that are critical to ensuring the success of work within Region 7. These conversations encourage participation in Region 7 meetings, and in some cases, plant the seeds for longer-term asks for partnerships and strategic collaboration where gaps exist in knowledge, skillsets, and resources with the existing RSC membership and implementation team.

GAUGE NETWORK COORDINATION

Through one-to-one discussion with Ascension, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa parishes it was realized that each Parish was working on a gauge network. CRPC through the Region 7 LWI program setup a discussion with those parishes, ULL, and USGS to collaborate on the gauge networks and to ensure consistency with the state-wide network.

TANGIPAHOA PARISH COUNCIL WATERSHED COMMITTEE

Bridgette Hyde, Councilwoman for District 9 of Tangipahoa Parish was recently named the Chair for the Tangipahoa Council. As a part of her initial efforts, she stood up a Watershed Committee. The purpose of this committee is to be in better alignment with the vision, mission, and goals of LWI and Region 7 specifically. CRPC presented to this group in March with OCD to provide a high-level overview of the overall program and region-specific work. The desire to align Parish-level activities with regional and state efforts explicitly through this committee is an indication that the work is gaining traction.

Regional Provisional Governance Recommendation

PROGRESS

On January 28, 2021, the Regional Steering Committee adopted the Region 7 Provisional Governance Recommendation. The figure below shows a high-level overview of how the RSC developed the recommendation and what the related activities will be through summer 2021.

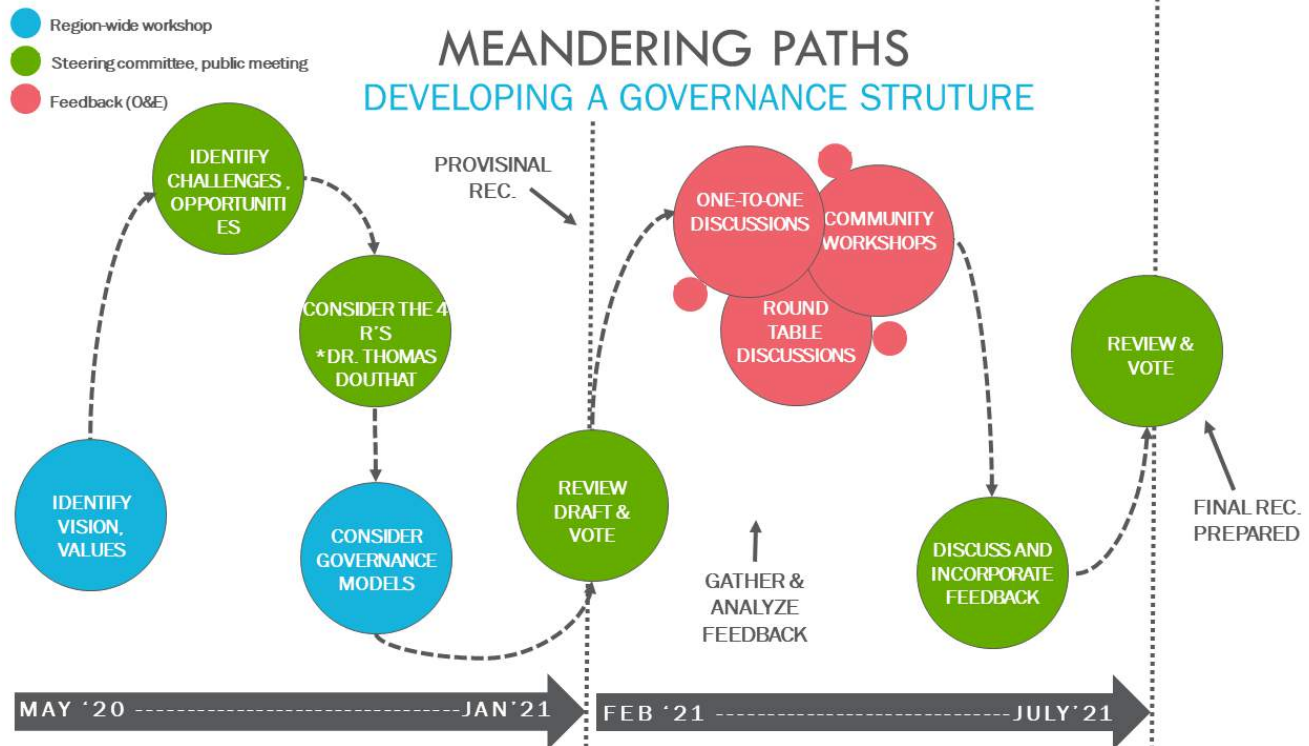


Figure 1: Map of the development of the Region 7 Provisional Governance Recommendation presented March 25 to APA's Water and Planning Network.

OUTREACH MEETINGS ON PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

Figure 1 shows an outreach and engagement period around the provisional governance recommendation. Below are the meetings that have occurred as of March 31, 2021 and a list of pending discussions to gather additional feedback.

MEETINGS THAT HAVE OCCURRED:

Affiliation	Org type	Attendees	Meeting Date
Tangipahoa	Parish	Parish President Robby Miller, Bridget Bailey, Missy Cowart, Councilwoman Bridget Hyde, Councilwoman Kim Coates, Rachelle Sanderson, Kim Marousek	3/2/21
St. Helena	Parish	Major Coleman, Jeremy Williams, Robert Mathers, Toni Matthews, Jamie Setze, Drew Ratcliff, Rachelle Sanderson	3/1/21
Livingston	Parish	Mark Harrell, Steve Kistler, Jamie Setze, Rachelle Sanderson	2/8/21
West Feliciana	Parish	Gary Mego, Emily Cobb, Jamie Setze, Rachelle Sanderson	2/22/21
Amite River Basin Commission	Other Public Entity	Dietmar Rietschier, Larry Bankston, Jamie Setze, Chuck Berger, Rachelle Sanderson	2/23/21



Greater Baton Rouge Home Builders Association	NGO	Karen Zito, Kim Marousek, Rachelle Sanderson	2/8/21
St. John the Baptist	Parish	Rene Pastorek, Devin Foil, Dr. Fermin, Jaclyn Hotard, Kim Marousek, Jamie Setze, Rachelle Sanderson	3/17/21
DEQ	Other Public Entity	Chuck Berger, John Sheehan, Binh Dao, John McFarland, Kim Marousek, Rachelle Sanderson	3/19/21
Ascension	Parish	Mike Enlow, Ron Savoy, John Diez, Jamie Setze, Rachelle Sanderson	3/22/21
The Water Institute of the Gulf	NGO	Colleen McHugh, Allison DeJong, Brett McMann, Beaux Jones, Ryan Clark, Rachelle Sanderson, Kim Marousek	3/31/21
Iberville	Parish	John Clark, Randall Dunn, Jamie Setze, Rachelle Sanderson	3/31/21
St. Tammany	Parish	Ross Liner, Mike Cooper, Kim Marousek, Jamie Setze, Rachelle Sanderson	3/23/21

PENDING MEETINGS

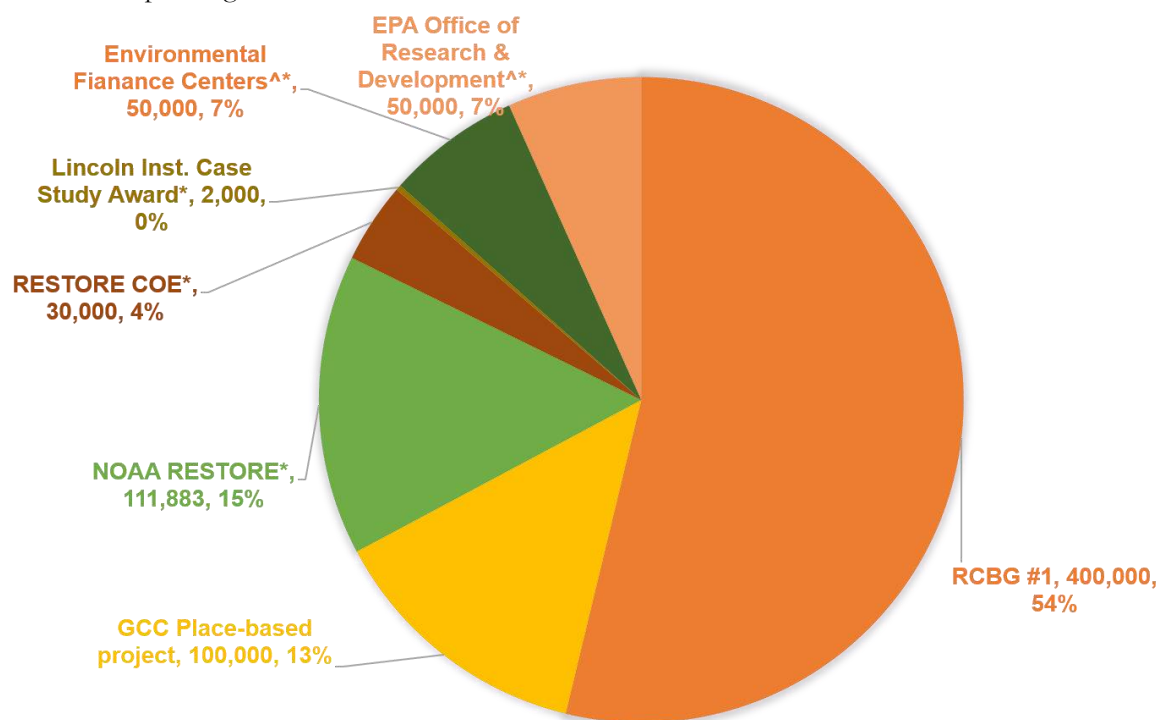
Meeting complete	Affiliation
Scheduling pending	Washington
Scheduling pending	St. James
SCHEDULED	St. Charles
Scheduling pending	East Baton Rouge
Scheduling pending	East Feliciana
Scheduling pending	Capital Area Groundwater Commission
SCHEDULED	GOCA
Scheduling pending	Northshore Homeowners Association
SCHEDULED	Baker
SCHEDULED	Gonzales
Scheduling pending	Livingston
SCHEDULED	Denham Springs
Scheduling pending	Baton Rouge Area Foundation
Scheduling pending	NGO Roundtable
Scheduling pending	Municipal roundtable (2 workshops)
Scheduling pending	Community roundtable (2 workshops)



Scheduling pending	Legislative roundtable (2workshops)
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Leveraging Funds and Activities & Funding Opportunities

The Louisiana Watershed Initiative approach “requires unprecedented coordination and cooperation across all facets and functions of government agencies as we work together to mitigate future flood risk.” It is for this reason that we are also focused on leveraging existing activities, coordinating, and collaborating where there is strategic alignment. Below are activities that Region 7 is leveraging for the purpose of mutually advancing activities between LWI and our partners. The pie chart below highlights activities leveraged and the approximate dollar amount. Please note that not all activities are described in detail below because some activities may have been reported on in previous grant reports and awards are pending announcement.



PARTNERSHIP WITH GEORGETOWN CLIMATE CENTER (\$100,000)

- **Funds leveraged:** \$100,000 through a grant to GCC from the Doris Duke Foundation
- **Duration:** January 2021 – April 2022
- **Activity:** Focus on planning and zoning tools that can be used to mitigate flood risk and encourage affordable housing and other investments in locations in low-food risk (receiving) areas. Planning Work Group members include:
 - Bridget Bailey, Director of the Office of Community Development with Tangipahoa Parish
 - Evelyn Campo, Resilience Planning Specialist with Office of Community Development with Louisiana Office of Community Development



- Dr. Thomas Douthat, Associate Professor with LSU College of the Coast and Environment
- Dr. Monica Teets-Farris, Director of UNO-CHART
- Devin Foil, Zoning Regulatory Administrator/Floodplain Manager/Coastal Zone Administrator with St. John the Baptist Parish
- Jerome Fournier, Director of Planning & Development with Ascension Parish
- Dr. Robert Habans, Economist with the Data Center
- Ross Liner, Director of Planning & Development with St. Tammany Parish
- Andreanecia Morris, Executive Director of Housing New Orleans/Housing Louisiana
- Dr. Zhu Ning, Professor in Urban Forestry/Ecophysiology and Climate Change at Southern University
- Karen Zito, Executive Director of Homebuilders Association of Greater Baton Rouge
- **Status:** The Planning Work Group had their first meeting in late February and will reconvene in mid-April. Georgetown Climate Center is conducting one-to-one interviews with each participant and has graduate students conducting research on affordable housing codes, ordinances, incentives, and design that incorporate flood risk as well.

The scope of work is included in the attachments.

PARTNERSHIP WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (\$50,000)

- **Funds leveraged:** \$50,000, please note that this is an approximation and that this value may change as a clearer scope of work is determined
- **Duration:** Spring 2021 – Mid-2022
- **Activity:** Please note that the full scope is to be determined and that the following reflects initial brainstorm discussions. EPA in partnership with CRPC's Region 7 LWI program will develop a resilience roadmap to operationalize tools and resources focused on goals identified in the [Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework](#)
- **Status:** Scope is in development and it is anticipated that the work will launch in April 2021

PARTNERSHIP WITH NEW ENGLAND, MARYLAND, AND SYRACUSE ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTERS (\$50,000)

- **Funds leveraged:** \$50,000, please note that this is an approximation and that this value may change as a clearer scope of work is determined
- **Duration:** Spring 2021 – Mid-2022
- **Activity:** Please note that the full scope is to be determined and that the following reflects initial brainstorm discussions. The identified Environmental Finance Centers will work with CRPC's Region 7 LWI program efforts to develop an annual training conference for the region that focuses on delivering mission-critical information and an opportunity to practice the practical application of what is learned through collaborative cross-jurisdictional exercises between Region 7 partners
- **Status:** Scope is in development and it is anticipated that the work will launch in April – May 2021



LINCOLN INSTITUTE CASE STUDY AWARD (\$2,000)

- **Funds awarded (pending):** \$2,000
- **Duration:** Spring 2021 – Mid-2022
- **Activity:** Submission title: *Can Meandering Paths Connect a Fragmented Planning System? Developing a regional governance structure to enable watershed planning in Southeast, Louisiana, inquiry study*. More about the opportunity: To address the rising social, economic, and environmental challenges facing cities across the globe, planners need foundational knowledge and skills as well as opportunities to apply them in real world situations. The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (the “Institute”) and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) launched a digital case library at the ACSP 2017 Annual Conference. This Partnership has produced 27 cases about land policy issues in North America, South America, Asia, Africa, and Europe. The completed cases are in the Institute’s digital case library and are free for anyone to use. To help grow the collection, authors are invited to submit a proposal to write a case study. What is a case study? It is a story about a real situation. It includes sufficient information such as relevant people, groups, organizations, actions, and issues to give readers an immersive experience of the situation. The Institute’s case studies are teaching materials, not research publications. They are written to further the education of students and practitioners and are designed to make learning both engaging and effective. Through debates, group work, and continuous feedback from educators and peers, participants in classes and seminars that use cases develop analytical skills, empathy for opposing views, and ultimately a deep understanding of pertinent issues.
- **Status:** The application was submitted March 29, 2021 and award winners will be notified May 3, 2021

The application is included in the attachments.

RESTORE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE LOI (\$150,000)

This purpose of this RFP is to identify research projects to fund that will produce results directly relevant to the regular update and implementation of Louisiana’s Coastal Master Plan. The Coastal Master Plan, which was developed by CPRA with input from citizens, legislators, parish representatives, and stakeholder groups using the best available science and engineering, focuses state efforts and guides actions needed to sustain Louisiana’s coastal ecosystems, safeguard coastal populations, and protect vital economic and cultural resources. The Coastal Master Plan is updated every six years, providing an opportunity for the incorporation of new knowledge and understanding into the plan. There are several research activities, and the team has chosen to focus on:

- **Population Change and Social Sciences** Identify the key drivers of coastal population shifts and methods to project those shifts over time. Identify coastal communities that may be expected to receive an influx of population over time, as well as those expected to decrease in population over time. Research activities must include: Exploring event-driven population migration (e.g., in response to hurricanes, storm surge-based flooding, and high tide flood events), including analyses of legal, cultural, and demographic factors that influence when people leave and where they go, to support development of a projection methodology specific to coastal Louisiana.

CRPC in partnership with The Data Center and LSU’s Colleges of Coast and Environment and Department of Experimental Statistics submitted a letter of intent on March 5 and will submit a full proposal.



Relationship to Region 7 and LWI as a whole: As we see increasing flood risk as a result of human-induced activities, including climate change and development practices, and natural processes, such as shoreline erosion, people will make decisions to migrate. Region 7 is a hotspot for migration because of its proximity to Baton Rouge and New Orleans, its economic opportunities, residential housing opportunities, familial connections, and more. A more robust understanding of migration patterns is necessary to be able to consider what future development patterns should look like to better mitigate flood risk and to incorporate smart growth practices. This study is state-wide and would also serve to benefit Regions 4, 5, 6, and 8 directly, as well as Region 1 -3 indirectly as we consider in/out migrations beyond the coast. The statement of the issue from the LOI submission is below...

As Louisiana's coastal landscape changes, increased exposure to flooding will alter the location of population and economic activity. Anecdotally, the most exposed “frontline” communities are already experiencing excess emigration. In some cases, migration may stress existing infrastructure and exacerbate social vulnerability, with uneven consequences across “sending” and “receiving” communities. Flood-induced migration involves complex causes and effects, but our understanding remains limited, in part due to the limitations of data on migration events. Our proposal will outline a contribution to the study of event-driven migration in coastal Louisiana that 1) overcomes limited geographic and temporal resolution of existing research through unique sources of microdata, 2) engages with interacting stressors of environmental and economic change, and 3) informs projections of migration in the Coastal Master Plan (MP), as well as adjacent projection efforts in coastal Planning and Development Districts (PDD) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO).

Business relocation and household migration are distinct but interrelated adaptive responses to environmental change. Studies of environment- and climate-driven migration show that access to economic opportunities can weigh more heavily on household migration decisions than perceived or experienced environmental threats. Better economic opportunities elsewhere can serve as “pull” factors, obscuring the effects of “push” factors like flood exposure. Over long-time horizons, place-specific factors, exogenous shocks, and migration itself can reshape the location of economic opportunities. How these dynamics amplify or moderate long-term migration responses to flood events, and whether they have marginal or threshold (“tipping point”) effects, remains an open question.

Disentangling these complexities has traditionally been limited by the paucity of conventional data about migration at a geographic (i.e., sub-parish) and temporal scale suited to the context of coastal planning. Federal data on the origins and destinations of migrations is only available at the Parish level. This contrasts with more spatially granular data on flooding hazards (e.g., MP storm surge models, FIRMs, Flood Factor, or interpolated data about major storm intensities) and measures of social vulnerability at small-area census geographies (e.g., SOVI). To support the development of migration projections, we propose an approach to modeling storm and flood-related migration that leverages new sources of business and residential microdata.

The LOI is included in the attachments.

ADDITIONAL RCBG ASK FROM OCD (\$400,000)

On March 25, 2021, CRPC senior staff members and program staff for LWI at OCD met to discuss an ask for additional funds for Region 7 capacity building activities. This discussion focused on transitioning from just capacity building activities in the region to capacity enabling where we can provide one-to-one technical support and



assistance. The ask was for \$400,000 between July 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022. The funds would directly support the following:

- Expanding to provide on-the-ground direct assistance
- Engaging in additional strategic partnerships, **similar to those that have leveraged hundreds of thousands of dollars for this program in less than a year.**
- Conducting additional fundraising (grants, etc.) activities
- Bringing national and international attention to the work by engaging in collaborative spaces and conferences
- Training up to do more effective work that is in alignment with our vision
- Investing in a Transition Team
- Raise for Watershed Coordinator
- Hiring of a Climate Adaptation Planner Fellow
- 20% of time for a landscape architect/planner to assist with cross-sector activities related to LWI
- Increased resources for travel, training subscriptions, dues
- Support for Transition Team to transition the RSC from the existing organized body to a formalized governance structure
- Two twelve-week interns through LSU
- Additional capacity-building gap analysis research and support to build on LSU's existing contract

A one-pager and PowerPoint that was presented for this ask are attached.

PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEES/TASK FORCE

- Climate Initiatives Task Force
- Georgetown Climate Center and LCG's Regional Climate Collaboratives Forum

Elevating Work to National/International Platforms

ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED

- AWRA 2021 Summer Land and Water Specialty Conference , The Louisiana Watershed Initiative: Implementing regional watershed governance to reduce flood risk. Partner panel discussion with OCD, Region 5, and LSU. **Confirmed**
- At What Point Managed Retreat, A Journey of Uncertainty: Developing a Regional Watershed Governance Structure **Pending**

PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

- **Scheduled for May 13:** Losing Home, Finding Home: The price of climate change in Louisiana, funded through a grant provided to the New Orleans Healing Center by the Louisiana Endowment for Humanities
- **March 25:** Water and Planning Network. Water and Comprehensive Planning - Theory to Practice. This webinar was viewed in real-time by over 100 participants across the nation.
- **March 22:** Panel on Urban Water Management for NYU Global Water Course



- **January 13:** Maastricht School of Management presentation to Global Engineering and Social Science course

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PURSUED

- **Millennium Fellowship Program, Atlantic Council:** Rachele Sanderson, Regional Watershed Coordinator, applied to this internationally competitive fellowship program. More about the program... “The program’s curriculum is built on three pillars: (1) “Inside-Out Leadership” which focuses on individual professional development and is supported through skills trainings, executive coaching, and leadership master classes and assessments; (2) “Outside-In Leadership” which focuses on aligning your abilities and actions as a leader towards strategic external impact and is supported through our Adaptive Leadership curriculum; and (3) “Thought Leadership” which focuses on building knowledge around the six defining global challenges that underpin the Atlantic Council’s work and is supported by our Master Class series:
 - Navigating the Return of Great Power Competition
 - Harnessing Rapid Technology Change
 - Redefining America’s Role in the World
 - **Adapting to and Mitigating the Effects of Climate Change**
 - Revitalizing the Rules-Based Global System
 - Defending Market Economies and Democracy”

LSU Deliverables

CRPC has been coordinating with the LSU consultant team on a weekly basis to focus on the following items:

NETWORK ANALYSIS AND PLAN EVALUATION (NAPE)

This work has focused on finalizing the stakeholder inventory from plans, mapping actor networks, and finalizing plan analyses prior to deducing findings and preliminary identification of further questions to address. Below are more details and two images that show preliminary plan and actor network maps.

- NAPE ANALYSIS for LWI REGION 7
 - Responsible Parties:
 - Lamana and Douthat
 - Substantial completion of stakeholder (organization) inventory from regional, parish, and municipal plans
 - Assessment and cleaning of data for reliability (e.g., Hazard Mitigation Plan inventory audit)
 - Initiation of analysis and creation of code and data for online GITHUB site.



- Estimated delivery April 2021

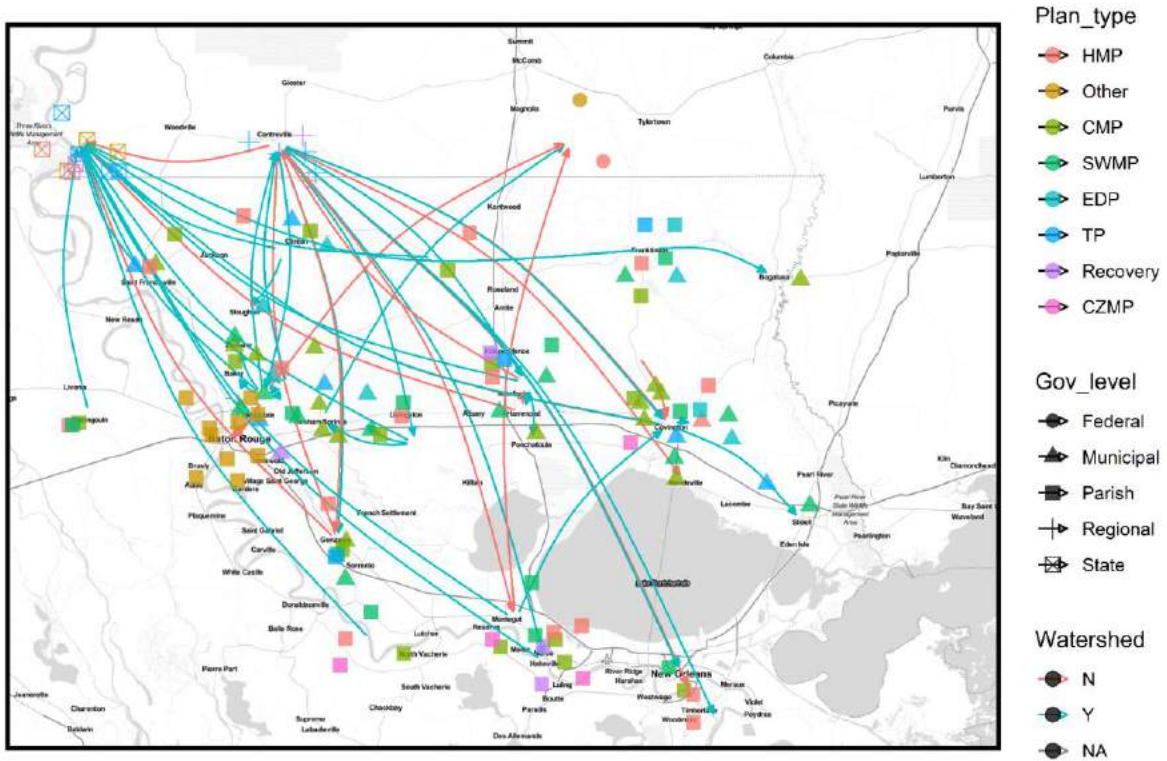


Figure 2: A network map of connected plans based on initial analyses. This map specifically shows that there is vertical integration of local plans through federal, regional, and state governments.



Actor-Plan Participation Network - Local Government Organizations and Plans

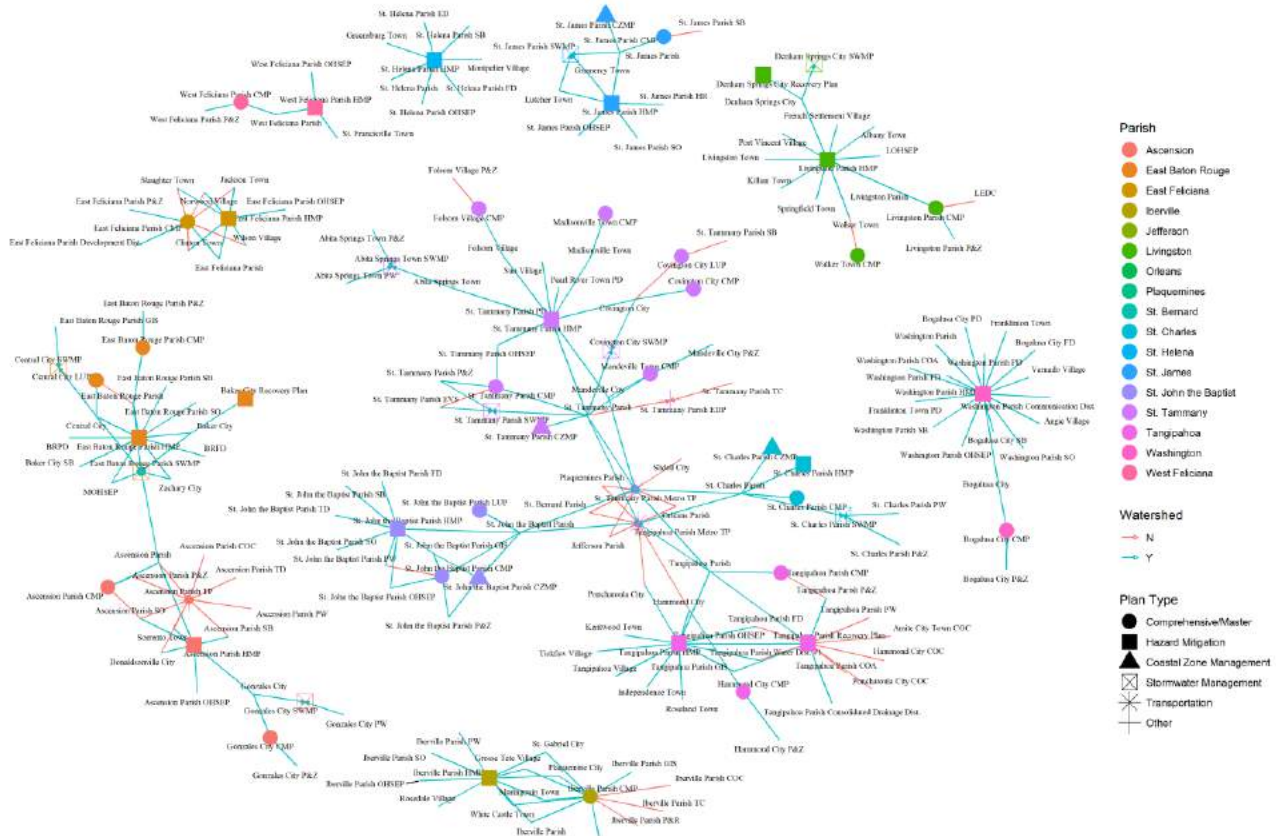


Figure 3: A map of actor-plan participation networks. This map clearly shows that when vertical alignment (i.e., brokers, like state, regional, federal actors) are removed, that horizontal integration (intra-jurisdictional collaboration and coordination) substantially decreases.

SUBDIVISION CODE EVALUATION

Work this quarter has focused on scrubbing data, vetting and interpretation of ordinance, and determining data platforms for hosting the data. More detailed information on activities is below:

- Data Structure for Cross-Jurisdictional Comparison of Land Development Regulations
 - Data Cleaning and Initiation of Mapping of Freeboard Requirements
 - Freeboard Analysis Substantially Complete
 - Data Cleaning and Initiation of Mapping
 - Analysis versus Administrative and Social Data
 - April-May, 2020
 - Results Posted to GitHub Over Summer
- Floodplains and Zoning



- Vetting and interpretation of Zoning ordinances for jurisdictions in Amite Basin pilot
- Ascension, Iberville, East Feliciana: Completed
- Sta. Helena (NA), Livingston (Denham/Walker) in Process
- Analysis and Overlay with Flood zones
 - April-May, 2021 (initial)
 - Pilot expected by August, 2021

COLLABORATION AND WORK ON CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION

- Collaboration with Co-City Fellow with Build Baton Rouge on Reflective Case Studies on Coalition Building in Multi-Jurisdictional Context
- Abstract submitted to AWAA
 - Research on background of regional decision making for Louisiana Case study
- Resource Building Activities:
 - Restore Act Grant Research Proposed with Data Center, CRPC

CONSISTENCY AND LEVERAGING DELIVERABLES OF OCD'S CONSULTANTS

Additionally, LSU and CRPC have been in conversations with OCD, and their consultants, to ensure that work is not being duplicated. During these conversations, it was made clear that some deliverables will need to be altered to leverage the work of other contractors. Several conversations have been dedicated to this.

WHAT CHALLENGES OR OBSTACLES HAVE BEEN FACED IN MEETING THESE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES?

Winter Storms and Rolling Blackouts

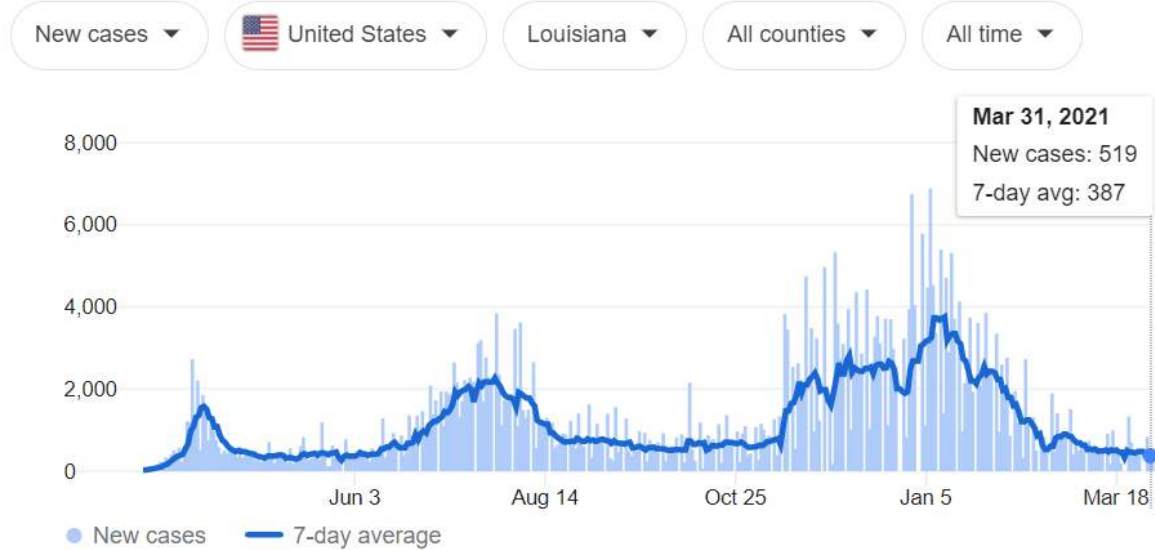
In late February, the entire state, as well as many other parts of the United States experienced an extreme cold snap that brought with it prolonged freezing temperatures and wintry weather. Across Region 7 roads were made impassable for days due to significant ice accumulation and powerlines and trees snapped, leading to widespread power outages. Additionally, our power grids were taxed due to the freezing temperatures and in order to avoid catastrophic failure, many regional power companies issued rolling blackouts. This put a stop to work for up to a week and a half for some individuals, not to mention that many were left without power in frigid temperatures and could not heat their homes to above 50 degrees, cook food, or take a warm shower for days.

COVID-19

January showed the largest increases in the number of new cases per day. However, there has been a significant decrease in overall cases with the beginning of multiple vaccine rollouts. Supporting figures are shown below.



Daily change



Each day shows new cases reported since the previous day · Last Updated: 19 hours ago ·
Source: [The New York Times](#) · [About this data](#)

Figure 4: Daily change of COVID19 cases in Louisiana since the first reported case through March 31, 2021.

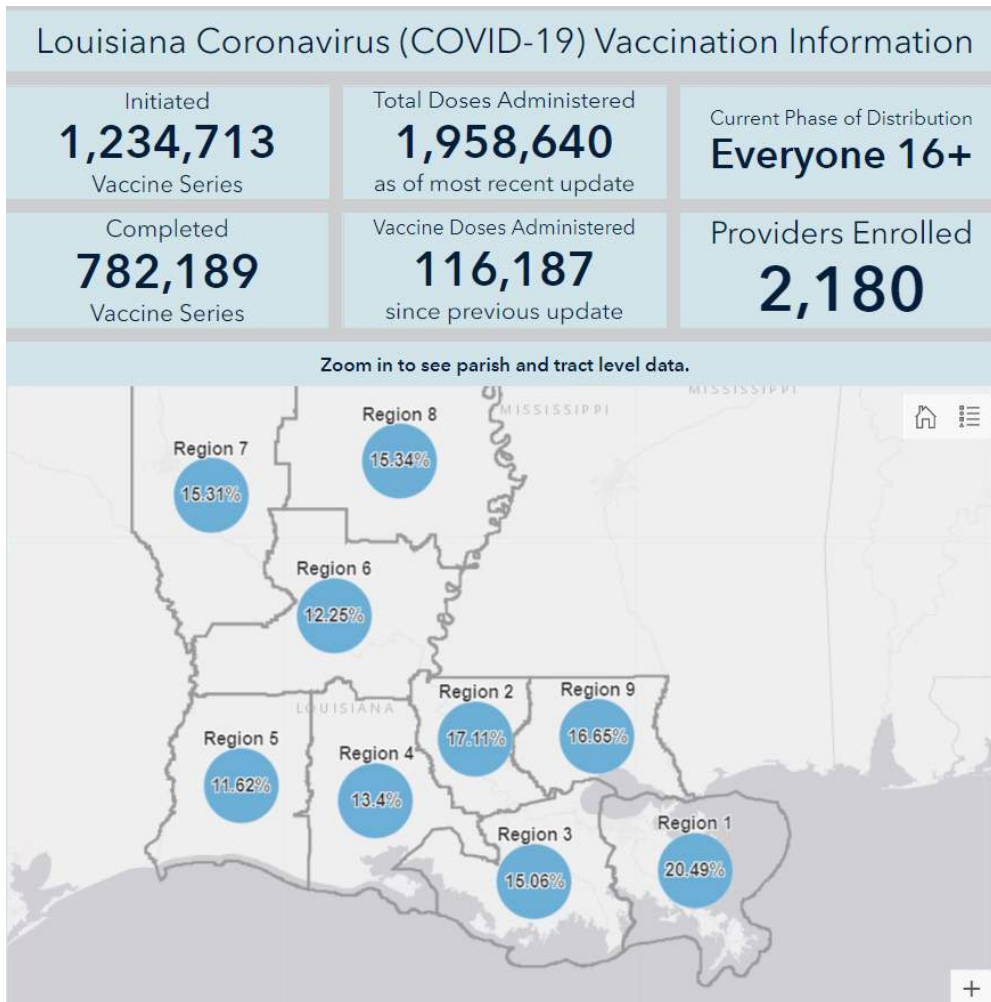


Figure 5: Louisiana COVID19 vaccination information as of March 31, 2021. Source: <https://ldh.la.gov/covidvaccine/>



Vaccinations

From [Our World in Data](#) · Last Updated: 2 days ago

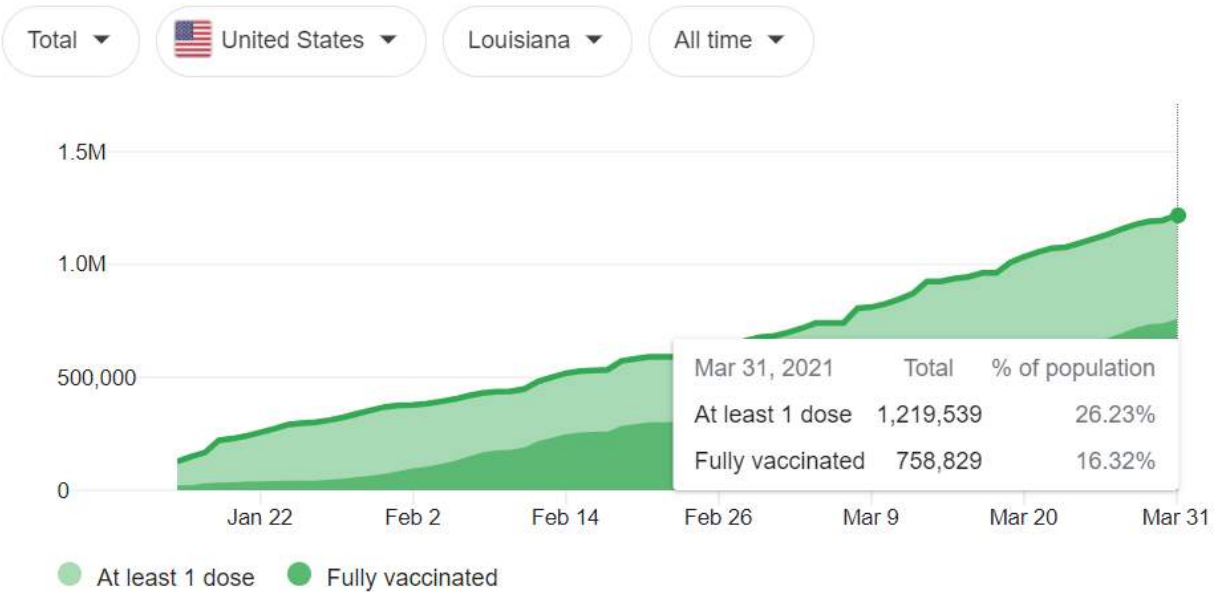


Figure 6: Number of vaccines distributed. Source: https://github.com/owid/covid-19-data/blob/master/public/data/vaccinations/us_state_vaccinations.csv

HAVE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES CHANGED? HOW?

The goals and objectives have not changed.

REGION 7

JANUARY 7 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Accompanying slides and a recording of this meeting can be found online at <https://crpcla.org/previous-events-archive>. Please note that any time that you see “RSC” in this document, it stands for Regional Steering Committee. Anytime that you see “LWI” in this document, it stands for Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING LOGISTICS

RSC Deliverables

- January 31st 2021 – long-term governance structure provisional recommendation.
- June 2021 (subject to change) – identify projects to recommend for funding.

Region 7 Goals

- Guiding Principles Framework - available at crpcla.org.

Icebreaker Poll: Where are you at with regards to virtual meetings?

- 79% - They have been a great addition to my toolbox and I also see the value in in-person meetings.
- 15% - I love them!
- 12% - I can hardly stand to be on this one!

Ground Rules for interacting

1. Be brief and meaningful when voicing your opinion
2. Seek common ground and understanding
3. Consider what serves the benefit of the entire region

WHERE WE’VE BEEN

Provisional Recommendation (Evelyn Campo)

- January 31st – recommendation due.
- Campo: recommendation is not locked in, can be vague and changed over time.
- Goal is to get to a point of consensus about the path, then reach out and maintain a broader framework.

Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16, Goals

- More than \$1.2B CDBG-MIT Investment
- Pat Forbes: Scope and objectives of the LWI go beyond spending for tools and models to get work done.
 - LWI: How do we reduce risks and improve natural functions of floodplains?
 - \$1.2 B is not enough to maintain what we need to do throughout the state.



- Watershed-based governance structures can collect and refine resources to address floodplain needs. It is just as important that we get the governance right
- We don't have the answers or know how the entities should be structured. [We] are counting on the steering committees to find a better way to do this [than before].
- Evelyn Campo: We are starting to fulfill the goals in the EO - modeling effort, gauge network making progress, starting to reach out to other entities, etc.
 - No one parish/region should be on their own in tackling these problems.
 - EO did focus on interdependencies within our landscape and communities; we have agreed in being here today to work on a regional approach that deals with the natural hydrology and hydrography within Region 7.
- Rachelle Sanderson: The watershed initiative is built based on the work that we are doing - acts of developing the governance structure, working to develop the watershed-based approach to floodplain management.
 - Partnership working with Georgetown Climate Center.
 - If we can figure out what a strategic and useful governance structure looks like, we can figure out a way to leverage future funds in multiple ways.

Reminders from previous conversations

- LWI Mission
 - Chuck Berger: Phase 1 reports that there are a lot of agencies in the state that were not communicating.
- Region 7 Vision
 - Ross Liner: [We] can add to the response “to the needs of all of our communities and all of our involving environment”; “our” is a term that is specific to each person. EO is very innovative; we need to take what it wants us to do to heart and those roles it wants us to fill.
- How we're connected
 - Ross Liner: We need to work as a region to become resilient and sustainable.
- Root causes we've identified
 - Chuck Berger: there is a lot of different entities that do not necessarily coordinate all of the time.
 - What we do in the watershed affects the watershed.
 - We need to think about how to deal with today and yesterday's problems, including the future. We are not only dealing with today's problems but problems from activities from 50 years ago that occurred on multiple time-scales at one time.
- Identifying opportunities
 - Chuck Berger pointed out academia and business communities.
- Discussing boundaries
 - Ross Liner: Thinking back on our mission, this is why we're here and what we're trying to accomplish.
- Discussing funding
 - Rachelle Sanderson: We have a lot of capacity on the steering committee when it comes to knowing grant programs.
- Discussing potential functions



- Evelyn Campo: In looking at the results, we have talked a lot about the role of the coalition and project implementation and review using models.
 - Takeaway – needs more discussion, possible role for the coalition to be the conduit of grand funds and reviewing projects.
 - Maintenance and implementation of projects are strong factors in everyone’s minds; and
 - The need for technical support as a regional entity.
- Rachele Sanderson pointed out watershed-related programming.
- Evelyn Campo: There seems to be a consensus that the coalition needs a role in watershed planning efforts, and make sure that it’s balanced with the local entities work in executing regional planning processes.
- Governance models
 - Rachele Sanderson: This level of detail is more than we need in the provisional recommendation.
 - The conversation on the 15th will be important for building out by-laws and charters and transitioning into a successful governance structure.
 - Goal is building a structure that outlasts the wedding and honeymoon.
 - Clarity on function – more refined over time getting some of that work done today.
- Questions
 - Provisional governance recommendation
 - Rachele Sanderson: governance and roadmap - some of these questions we have answered over time.

MOVING TOWARDS A PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

Potential versus actual authority

- No one size fits all solution for watershed regions.
- Evelyn Campo: The way the coalition is enabled might be through a framework that addresses all the regions or multiple regions. Some boards and commissions have a broad authority or mandate but work in a prescribed area that they see as their immediate business duties (what do they have the capacity for?).

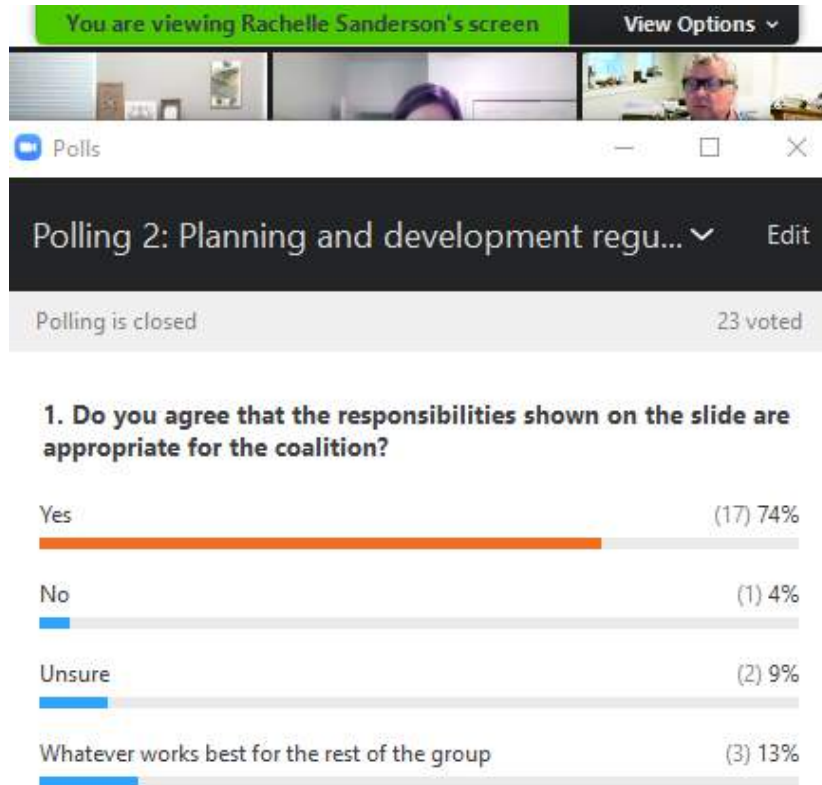
REGION 7 SUMMARY: COALITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Planning and development regulations responsibilities:

- Provide technical assistance to local entities, who create floodplain management plans
- Provide oversight for regional planning processes
- Region should not issue development standards, but the state should adopt minimum development standards
- Region should provide technical assistance to local entities regarding the impact of development standards



- Results from a poll asking RSC members if they agree with the aforementioned responsibilities.
 - Yes – 74% (17)
 - No – 4% (1)
 - Unsure – 9% (2)
 - Whatever works best for the group – 13% (3)



Please note that the following notes resemble more of a transcript instead of a condensed account of the conversations that occurred. This is to accommodate the email request (sent January 7, 2021) of a Regional Steering Committee member who asked that the meeting minutes reflect their comments.

- Dietmar Rietschier: I want to say something but Ill leave it until the very end during the public comment. Dietmar.
- Evelyn: I see that someone voted no, can you share with us what your concern may be? PAUSE How about unsure? Is anyone unsure?
- Devin Foil: I agree, [the] region should not issue development standards. The state should adopt minimum development standards, but different places in the region will be affected in various ways - choose which development standards will affect where.
- Evelyn Campo: Maybe it makes sense that the trajectory is to have minimum standards across the board?
- Dietmar Riestchier: It opened my mind. You have a situation where you have an over predominance of rural areas. There are hot spots that are urban areas. The traditional way of evolution cannot have the same standards in urban and rural area. This is what sometimes causes friction because it's an evolutionary process.



Standards get stiffer as population density increases. That is how things are in reality to trying to predo it on some concept isn't going to work.

- Evelyn Campo: Dietmar, you bring up something that is related to something in the chat from Kim Coates. One thing I'm hearing is that we have talked in the past about if we don't have standards that are the minimum, we are competing with each other in some way. It also depends on the standard - some are not appropriate to apply over a broad area. We need to investigate if some are appropriate as a minimum standard. In response to Kim Coates' response (in chat), could the region have its own development standards?
- Becky Bond: I have a great deal of additional concerns about it which were raised on the previous call that I attended. It's far more complex far more complex than what is being presented, number one. Number two, I don't know how to communicate the complexity of what you're talking about doing because we already have State-level standards to deal with. That's just a fact. There are State-level standards, and you have municipalities making their land use decisions and we already have real estate development requirements with regards to how they impact watersheds and how they impact flooding, and how they impact drainage. So, I mean, you're literally talking about everything that is already in place and I'm not sure how adding another layer of bureaucracy will change anything. I fail to see that and I feel that while we have a wonderful group of people assembled here you don't have the correct people who are on this phone call who need to understand what it is that your discussing because you're talking about needing to reach out and touch a broad number of areas with another level of authority and agency that aren't on here. Again, I didn't get to read the entirety of the Executive Order from John Bel Edwards because I'm not receiving emails in the way I need to be apparently. However, I feel that this interpretation is a little different than what is being stated here but that's just my opinion. So I'm struggling with all of this and I'll leave it at that.
- Evelyn: Becky, I appreciate that comment and it sounds like you may need to have a one on one call with Rachelle and walk through what has led us to this discussion.
- Becky Bond: I have had a conversation with her.
- Chuck Berger: Evolution not only occurs as you get more development but also as you get better science.
- Rachelle Sanderson: Becky, I just want to offer again... I think we've had only two conversations over the phone. Please consider me to be an open line of communication. If we need to talk weekly, bi-weekly, just know that I'm here for that.
- Becky Bond: I don't know that any number of conversations is going to change what it is we're discussing because I feel like I understand what is being proposed and I understand what exists now. The disconnect that I'm seeing is that we're talking about something that is on a broader, more impactful level, that is being presented and I feel like that needs to be honestly presented. If you want to come out and say, we have a problem with land use and the way it's being developed and it's causing flooding, and damage across the board and it needs to be managed more cohesively, then just say it and do that. Be forthright and say that. I'm not going to argue that there's not places and issue where we need to address those types of things. I just feel like distorting it with buzz words is not the way we should handle it but that's just my opinion.
- Chuck Berger: Becky, this goes back to a question I had which is, are there areas where the standards could be rethought or improved?



- Dietmar Rietschier: Look, I'll tell you something. I want to be very frank. Forget about the etiquette and all of the protocols. I have been involved in planning and engineering. To me, this whole process is too complicated. I can hardly read it without going to sleep. I don't know who wrote all of this stuff. When you can say things precisely about what you intend to do. In terms of flood protection, in terms of projects, in terms of programs on one hand, in terms of governance on the other. But when I read this, I have a hard time. English is my third language, I'm having a hard time because it's more like a literary exercise in English in wording, in penmanship. It's nothing that has teeth in it. I have a problem with that and look I'm very frank and I'm just one man talking but I want it to be recorded but it needs to be simplified. I don't want to make a poll right now, but I want to know how many of the people listening really understand what we're talking about. The other part and I've said this many times. You look at the governance models to make one decision. We require over 100 people, that doesn't make sense.
- Evelyn: So y'all...
- Dietmar Rietschier: I'm sorry, I say what I have to say, and I won't leave it alone. It is what it is.
- Becky Bond: That's where I'm coming back to. We understand we need have areas that we need to work on. We understand that we have areas that need to be addressed with regards to development standards. Everybody understands what the problems are but doing this in a manner where you're going to not have a feasible method of getting people on board with doing what it is that needs to be done and looking also, like this, where it's just... and I'm not trying to sound terrible and I'm not trying to defend but if we're building an agency around a pot of money for the sake of building an agency...
- Rachelle Sanderson: Can I hit pause here?
- Pat Forbes: This is Pat if I could jump in for a second?
- Rachelle Sanderson: Yes, go ahead.
- Pat Forbes: Becky, the point I was trying to make early on is figuring out how to spend \$1.2B is absolutely not the only objective of this. It is fundamentally changing the way we address flood risk in the state because we have... the system we have right now, where those decisions are made at jurisdictional boundary levels doesn't work. The governor looked at all of us and said whatever we're doing right now, we have to do something different, it's not working, and I'll go as far as to say that the obvious answer is managing risk, and that means how do we assign resources, where do we put those resources, where do we find those resources, managing that risk within watersheds is the only way that we can actually improve what we're doing. So this is... I heard Dietmar say it's written in too complicated of language maybe, but I definitely don't agree that this is some pretty words thrown together to help us figure out how we're going to address spending \$1.2B. The work here is coming up with a structure that does work. I tried to be as honest as I possibly could by saying that we don't know what that structure looks like, we just know that we've got to have something in place that is able to make decisions around watersheds and regions so that those entities within those watershed and regions are working together on the answer. Including how do we spend \$1.2B and how do we regulate ourselves, our development, how do we ensure safety going forward, how do we incorporate future rain models? All of those things are things that are going to have to be done together if we're going to have any chance of getting better.



- Becky Bond: I think we all understand that. I guess my question is that we have regional planning commissions in place now and we potentially could be improving those by adding engineering groups and departments to them to support these functions.
- Pat Forbes: Regional planning commissions were one of the first solutions that we looked to for how to do these regional groups. Unfortunately, they don't all fall across the watershed boundaries, which makes sense because they're more jurisdictional but there's no reason not to have them involved, it would be crazy to not have them involved. But is that the governing, do they have the structure to govern these pieces of work we need to do in the way it needs to be done. I don't even know the answer to that question, Rachele, maybe you can answer that.
- Rachele Sanderson: I don't have the answer to that either, I think that is a part of what this group is figuring out. Capital Region Planning Commission has been coordinating these activities for Region 7 and I think that in previous conversations we've heard that it is beneficial to continue to do so. As much as we can support these efforts and support y'all in the region... the goal is how are we mutually supporting each other for the purposes moving forward for the purpose of more effective floodplain management over time. I've said this before, what we are building out, this provisional governance recommendation is vague, but it is a provisional governance recommendation. It is not bylaws, it is not a charter, it is not operational guidance, they are not decision-making matrices, they're none of those things. Those things are to come. This is a point on the roadmap where we get to a point to where this is a milestone so that we can move forward and so that we can move forward we need to put a pin in this conversation so that we can keep the ball rolling.
- Thomas Douthat: If I can make one hopefully neutral point is that Capital Region Planning Commission has been the coordinating entity in this region, but there are a whole other level of capacities and functions that are not essentially part of planning and development districts in the state which have a big basis in transportation. They are pertinent to this and part of you guys thinking about how we develop a structure to add that on, potentially to this, CRPC or other organizations in the region and you and your wisdom see fit. So, I think that the idea is that there is a forum that you are trying to create the contours of what is going to be discussed and negotiated in that forum along the 45 municipalities, ~~42~~ (post-meting edit corrected to 13) parishes that are in the region which is a complex long-term thing that addresses hazard exposure in southern Louisiana.
- Ross Liner: I want to thank Mr. Forbes for pointing that out and I also want to say that our work isn't done yet. This is complicated work, and it is hard work, and we need to continue doing this work. We hope this is not a onetime pot of funding but if we don't come up with a structure that we'll need moving forward then we will potentially lose out on billions of dollars. I also disagree that we know what the problems are... we know what the problems are but not the science and the data to correct the problems. That's what we don't know, that's what we're not achieving apparently and it's the reason why this executive order was made, it's the reason why we're able to get \$1.2B. It's going to be hard work. We have to start from scratch, we need the science and data to continue moving us forward.
- Dietmar Rietschier: I want to say something about what Rebecca said.
- Ross Liner: Dietmar, I'm going to ask you kindly that we stop the conversation and move on to the next one.
- Dietmar Rietschier: I can say something? I thought that I am in the United States of America. I am an adopted American. I have to say something. It is incorrect to say that Capital Region Planning Commission is



the agency that should be really doing that. Has anybody looked, including Pat, at the Amite River Basin which has been defined by state law as a watershed, we are doing things right now that you are talking about, we just need assistance. How come that they cannot look at the Amite River Basin Commission, and me and my group have been saying for a while that we would like to see this region be a 7A and a 7B. 7A is the Amite River Basin. We can do the job. We can do the job and let them do whatever they want.

- Ross Liner: This is not the basis of the executive order and what this structure is supposed to be. I hear a lot of “we” but it’s more of an “I” with what you’re speaking about. Let’s move on and continue onto the next slide.
- Rachelle Sanderson: I’m going to hit pause, y’all. Let’s all hold on one second and ground back in our ground rules. That’s why we have them. Number one: be brief and meaningful when voicing your opinion. Number two: seek common ground and understanding, not problems and conflict. Number three: Consider what serves the benefit of the entire region. If you are comfortable to do this, stretch for just a minute, if you want to get up, stretch your legs, take a couple of deep breaths.... I think what we just moved through was an intense moment for this group and I appreciate the transparency that has existed in that moment too. I want to recognize that. We were very transparent in the things we were saying to one another.
- Chuck Berger: Rachelle, can I bring up something really quick that may hopefully address some concerns I’m hearing?
- Rachelle Sanderson: Go ahead, Chuck.
- Chuck Berger: when I was first involved in this in 2018, I had a lot of the same concerns as to if the answers were already known. So I feel the pain but what I’ve learned is that we are here to figure all of that out. If we already knew it was easy, we wouldn’t be here, it would have been done already. Regarding the \$1.2B, I like to think of this as a project to have that sustainability in the future beyond the timeframe of this activity to lead to bigger and better things.
- Rachelle Sanderson moved the group onto the next conversation

Outreach and engagement responsibilities

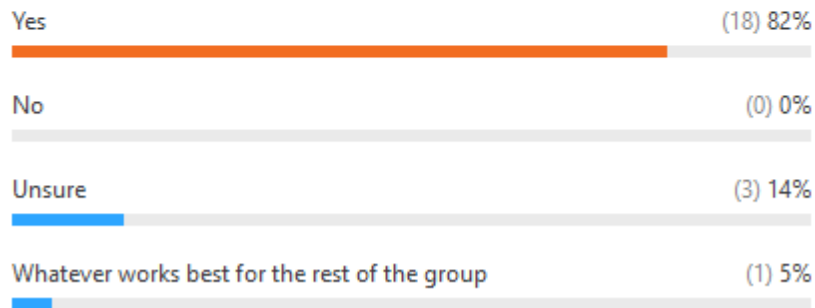
- Provide opportunities for watershed-related outreach and education
- Long-term capacity building from the region to public entities and citizens
- Results from a poll asking RSC members if they agree with the aforementioned responsibilities.
 - Yes – 82% (18)
 - No – 0% (0)
 - Unsure – 14% (3)
 - Whatever works for the best of the group – 5% (1)



Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. Do you agree that the responsibilities shown on the slide are appropriate for the coalition?



Project implementation responsibilities

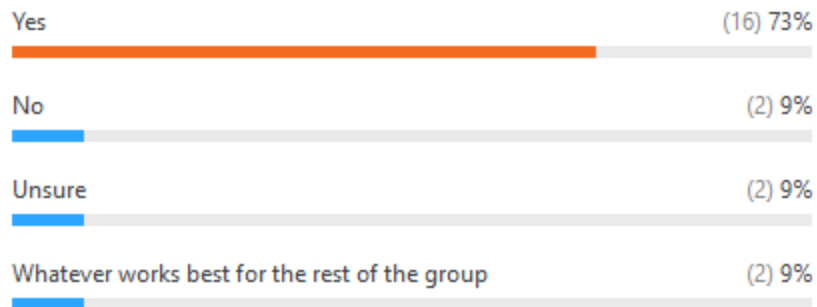
- Review and/or provide technical assistance on major projects as deemed appropriate by the future bylaws of the coalition
- Results from a poll asking RSC members if they agree with the aforementioned responsibilities.
 - Yes – 73% (16)
 - No – 9% (2)
 - Unsure – 9% (2)
 - Whatever works for the best of the group – 9% (2)



Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. Do you agree that the responsibilities shown on the slide are appropriate for the coalition?



Data and modeling responsibilities

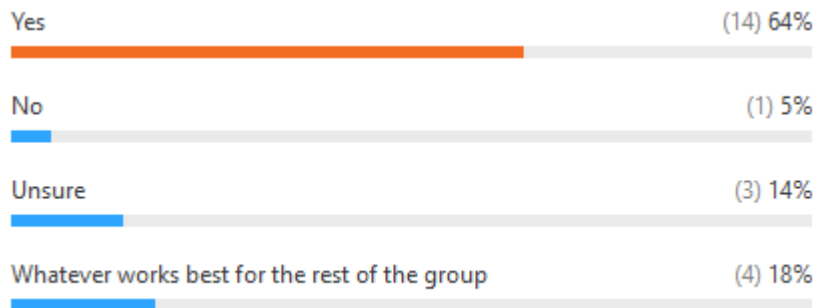
- Models should initially be housed at the state-level and over time with support, capacity should be built at the regional level
- Results from a poll asking RSC members if they agree with the aforementioned responsibilities.
 - Yes – 64% (14)
 - No – 5% (1)
 - Unsure 14% (3)
 - Whatever works for the best of the group 18% (4)



Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. Do you agree that the responsibilities shown on the slide are appropriate for the coalition?



REGION 7 SUMMARY: REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS

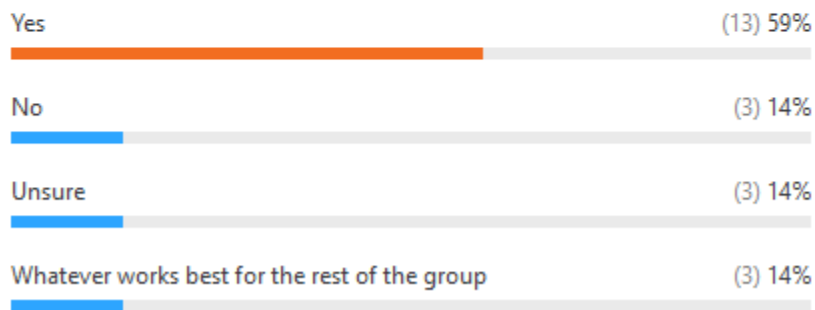
- Authority to review and/or provide technical assistance for regional projects
- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies
- Authority to oversee regional planning processes
- Authority to provide support for technical assistance related to outreach and education efforts and train the trainer programs
- Results from a poll asking RSC members if they agree with the aforementioned authorizations.
 - Yes – 59% (13)
 - No – 14% (3)
 - Unsure – 14% (3)
 - Whatever works for the best of the group – 14% (3)



Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. Do you agree that the authorizations listed on the slide are appropriate for the coalition?



WHAT OTHER REGIONS ARE CONSIDERING *SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

- Most regions are considering their local regional planning agencies as the coordinating entities
- Many regions express the need for statewide standards
- Regions 1, 2, and 3 are considering what coordination and collaboration with neighboring states look like
- Region 5 is considering planning and implementation districts
- Region 6 is considering an opt in/out setup for localities that do not have the capacity for building code reviews, etc.
- Region 8 tentatively agreed to staff the coalition, possibly in coordination via public-private partnership with an NGO or other regional entity. But outcome is still TBD pending further discussion by the RSC.
- Work across the state revolves around regional entities serving as the facilitator of cross-jurisdictional collaboration, planning, etc.

How consistent should the regions be in the coalition charters? (Multiple choice)

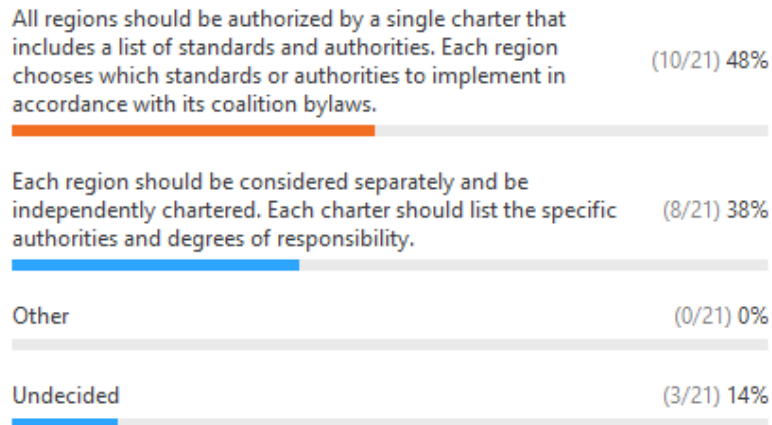
- All regions should be authorized by a single charter that includes a list of standards and authorities... - 48% (10/21)
- Each region should be considered separately and be independently chartered... - 38% (8/21)
- Other – 0% (0/21)
- Undecided – 14% (3/21)



Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. How consistent should the regions be in the coalition charters? (Multiple choice)



How should the coalition be chartered? Is there a preferred method?

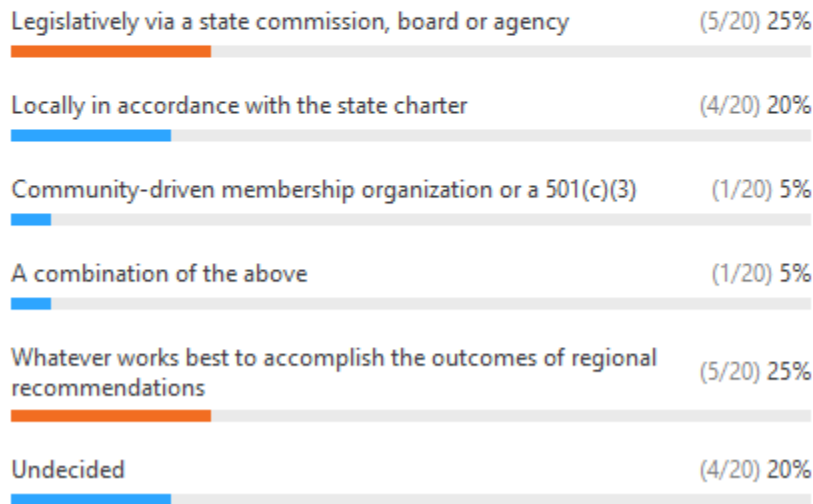
- Legislatively via a state commission, board, or agency – 25% (5/20)
- Locally in accordance with the state charter – 20% (4/20)
- Community-driven membership organization or a 501(c)(3) – 5% (1/20)
- A combination of the above – 5% (1/20)
- Whatever works best to accomplish the outcomes of regional recommendations – 25% (5/20)
- Undecided – 20% (4/20)
- Pat Forbes: Further explanation, maybe a simple writing on each of these so it is better understandable would be helpful.



Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. How could the coalition be chartered? Is there a preferred method? (Multiple choice)



PROJECTS DISCUSSION

- Evelyn Campo: This is a big part [projects discussion] of how you see us addressing our flood risks in the region.

How should projects be designed and selected?

- Devin Foil: What sticks out to me is the assistance with data collection and modeling efforts; data collection and organizing the data and being able to help those jurisdictions tell their council and public the story that data tells so that you can build support for a planning or project effort.
- Evelyn Campo: We are used to thinking of projects as being competitive for funding, but what if the region could serve to increase the net amount of funding for the projects in the area? Would that be a function for the regional coalition?
- Devin Foil: Yes, relating jurisdictions to each other and knowing the interconnectedness of everything.
- Pat Forbes: The watershed initiative group is looking at things across the country and getting educational materials together. Regions would be very well-suited to helping educate entities across the region relative to best practices across the country, design ideas, and how to get people to work together. There has to be some mechanisms as we gather information that we can help all of the regional entities (local entities) understand that. Maybe the regional entities could be the conduit for that.
- Evelyn Campo: How do you see that benefiting you as a member across this region?



- Chuck Berger: [It] would be good to review for potential adverse impacts early on and prevent someone from spending a lot of time and money on projects that would receive negative comments later.
- Evelyn Campo: Technical assistance during the middle part of the project, engineering or technical support may help with that. If the coalition is to be involved in project review, built into that is a mechanism for the coalition to incentive mechanizing flood risks. Think about what are the good thing you want to incentivize in the region.
- Rachele Sanderson: We will have many conversations moving on in the future. Adaptive management is considered a best practice.

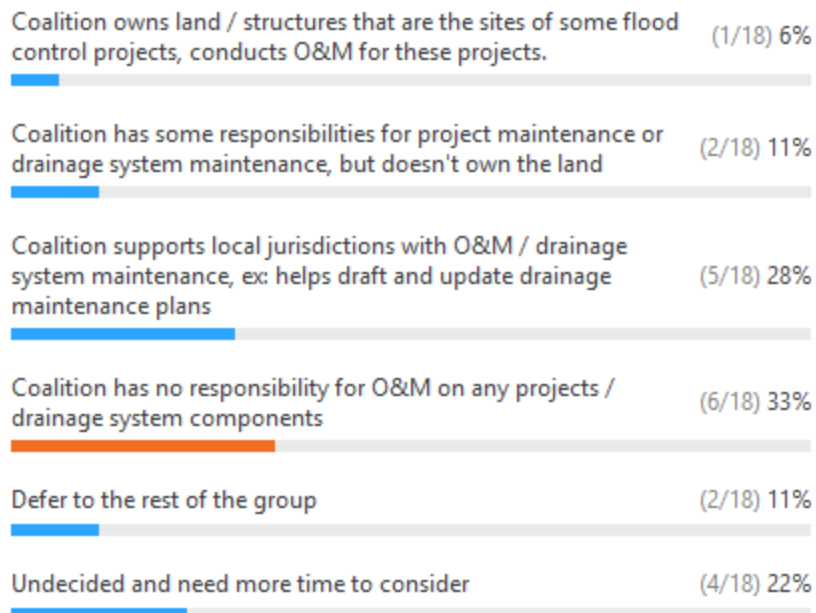
Who operates and maintains projects? (Multiple choice)

- Coalition owns land/structures that are the sites of some flood control projects, conducts O&M for these projects – 6% (1/18)
- Coalition has some responsibilities for project maintenance or drainage system maintenance, but doesn't own the land – 11% (2/18)
- Coalition supports local jurisdictions with O&M drainage system maintenance 28% (5/18)
- Coalition has no responsibility for O&M on any projects/drainage system components – 33% (6/18)
- Defer to the rest of the group – 11% (2/18)
- Undecided and need more time to consider – 22% (4/18)

Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. Who operates and maintains projects? (Multiple choice)





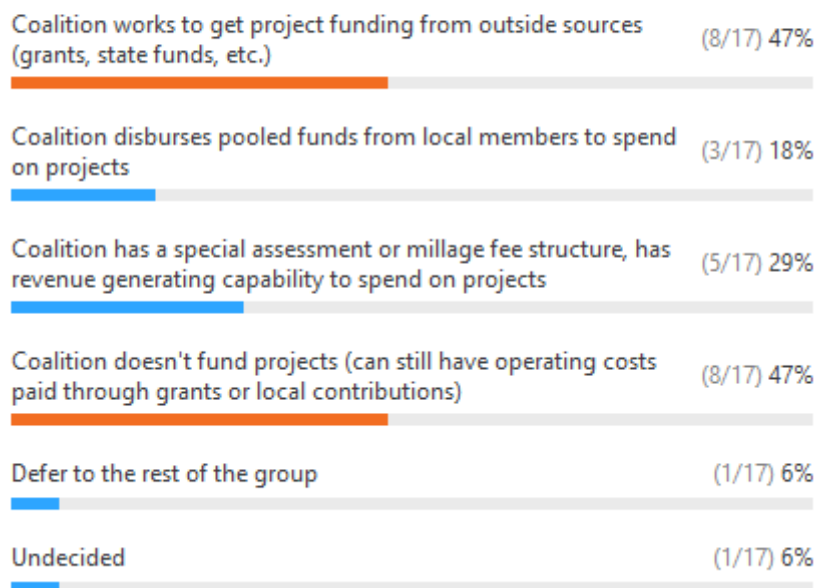
How does the coalition fund projects? (Multiple choice)

- Coalition works to get project funding from outside sources (grants, funds, etc.) – 47% (8/17)
- Coalition disburses pooled funds from local members to spend on projects – 18% (3/17)
- Coalition has a special assessment or millage or fee structure, has revenue generating capability to spend on projects – 29% (5/17)
- Coalition doesn't fund projects (can still have operating costs paid through grants or local contributions) – 47% (8/17)
- Defer to the rest of the group – 6% (1/17)
- Undecided – 6% (1/17)

Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

1. How does the coalition fund projects? (Multiple choice)



DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

The work of Region 7

- Rachele Sanderson: By working together towards a shared vision/goal, we can maximize our impact.

Roadmap

- Rachele Sanderson: You will see a lot of this in the provisional governance recommendation. It is meant to be something that can be changed over time. The details and levels of specificity we need to get to for the provisional governance recommendation is not as much detail as we will need for our bylaws.



Next steps

- Evelyn Campo: Our milestone is the state is working on some operational guidance to figure out how state agencies work together.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Russell Kelly Sr.: While we must be focused, we must also be aggressive in thinking and problem solving.
- Chuck Berger: I want to thank those that attended the Natural Channel Design presentation, the recording is available online. I reached out one-on-one for relationship building and anyone is welcome to contact me. I encourage people to talk to one another as well.

MEETING CLOSEOUT

ADOPTION OF NOVEMBER 2 MEETING MINUTES

Ross Liner called for motion

Ronny Carter motioned

Chuck Berger seconded

No objections, motion passed

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ross Liner called for motion

Devin Foil motioned

Chuck Berger seconded

No objections, motion passed

RESOURCES SHARED DURING THE MEETING

MEETING CHAT

12:59:53 From Michael Enlow : Mike Enlow - Ascension Parish

13:00:05 From Binh Dao (LDEQ) : Binh Dao, LDEQ

13:00:24 From John James Clark : John Clark, Iberville Parish

13:00:24 From Jeanette Clark : Jeanette Clark, DOTD

13:00:36 From Ann Guissinger : Ann Guissinger, OCD-LWI

13:00:36 From Earl Matherne : Earl Matherne, St. Charles Parish



13:00:43 From Victoria Jaye : Victoria Jaye - Digital Engineering
13:00:48 From kim marousek : Kim Marousek, CRPC
13:00:49 From Evelyn Campo : Evelyn Campo, OCD - please let me or Nicolette Jones know if you are having any zoom issues or need help with anything
13:00:50 From Jenny Schexnayder : Jenny Schexnayder, Nicholls State University Office of Coastal Support
13:01:02 From Chuck Berger : Chuck Berger, LDEQ
13:01:14 From Lindsey Lamana : Lindsey Lamana - LSU
13:01:20 From Steve Kistler : Steve Kistler
13:01:23 From Lindsey Lamana : Lindsey Lamana - LSU
13:01:35 From James Stewart : James Stewart, East Feliciana
13:01:49 From Nicolette Jones : Nicolette Jones, OCD
13:02:55 From Devin Foil : Devin A. Foil, St. John the Baptist Parish
13:03:10 From Bobbi Jo Breland : Bobbi Jo Breland - Washington Parish
13:03:18 From Drew Ratcliff : Drew Ratcliff - CRPC
13:17:16 From Gary Mego : Gary Mego, West Feliciana Parish
13:17:20 From Honora Buras : Honora Buras, CPRA, Ascension resident
13:17:39 From Russell Kelly Sr. : Russell L. Kelly Sr.
13:17:48 From KATHY STITES : Kathleen Stites, BREC I work in Baton Rouge but live in Tangipahoa parish
13:17:51 From Russell Kelly Sr. : Riverbend Subdivision HOA
13:17:59 From Thomas Douthat : Thomas Douthat, LSU College of the Coast and Environment
13:18:36 From John James Clark : John Clark, Iberville Parish resident currently living in Plaquemine
13:23:05 From Kendall Dix : Kendall Dix, Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy
13:32:57 From Pat Forbes : Pat Forbes, EBR Parish
13:35:11 From Russell Kelly Sr. : Very good list!
13:39:31 From Ivy Mathieu : Ivy Mathieu, St. John Parish Coastal Advisory Committee. Appreciate the recapping of where we have been...
13:46:22 From Tina Gassen : Sounds good
13:46:38 From Evelyn Campo : Seeing some thumbs up too
13:46:44 From Evelyn Campo : Thanks yall
13:51:46 From david campbell : please capitalize State
13:54:08 From Rachelle Sanderson : Please reach out to me at rsanderson@crpcla.org
13:55:48 From Larry Bankston : I do not know what the oversight authority would be. Cannot support the unknown.
13:57:18 From Kim Coates : that one threw me off because seems the region could have some development standards too
14:00:13 From Ronny Carter : Ronny Carter ... been on phone but I'm on computer now
14:00:32 From Rachelle Sanderson : Glad you're here, Ronny!
14:01:02 From Honora Buras : This is not clear about how upstream/downstream impacts of development or floodplain management projects would be addressed within the region.
14:02:53 From Russell Kelly Sr. : Understand the entites just mentioned as having authority receive data to make decisions which is not accurate at times and can have major negative consequences!
14:03:13 From Russell Kelly Sr. : ACCURATE SCIENCE!



14:04:40 From david campbell : “what we have in place” has not worked!!

14:06:31 From david campbell : That is WHY Watershed Institute existed. To correct past mistakes.

14:08:18 From Thomas Douthat : <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/07/climate/2020-disaster-costs.html>

14:12:45 From Evelyn Campo : Honora I think you will see that item on a following slide, thanks for bringing up!

14:12:45 From Russell Kelly Sr. : Another whole level of problem solving is needed incorporating TRAINING on problem solving and team building. Our thinking must evolve as a team. Must be the innovative point of the spear.

14:15:56 From Ronny Carter : We are not attempting to layout a finished product ... we are looking for the next right step only.....

14:29:58 From Becky Bond : Respectfully, I feel like it is problematic to state you are looking for "right next steps" while asking for a decision to be made on a governance model that is "hypothetical" until it is formalized legally. A lot can change between hypothetical and legal - that's like asking for a blank sheet of paper to be signed as a contract.

14:33:03 From Nicolette Jones : In order to get from hypothetical to legal we need to build consensus. This is part of the process.

14:34:08 From Larry Bankston : This will require legislation that will be very difficult to craft in which this new group will have authority over parishes and cities.

14:34:49 From Becky Bond : You are asking for a choice of governance model by January EOM. How do get there in 3 weeks?

14:36:48 From Chuck Berger : The way I understand it, the goal is in stone and the plan is in sand. The primary goal is better community resiliency to flooding. The recommended provisional governance can change. There will be an opportunity to tweak the governance model. A lot of the details will be worked out after we have a provisional governance recommendation in the operational guidance and charter. Someone can correct me if I ah wrong.

14:38:15 From Evelyn Campo : That's correct Chuck, the timeline for this program, which we will speak to shortly, includes time to vet and revisit the provisional recommendation, but we have to start somewhere, which is why we need a provisional recommendation by 1/31

14:41:32 From Pat Forbes : Acknowledging Larry's, Chuck's, and Becky's comments, yes, the structure is and will continue to be for some time a work in progress. Any legislation would require much more well-defined authorities, but this is the path to defining those. This process also allows an opportunity for each region to look at what the other regions are doing and see if anyone else has come up with a better mousetrap.

14:43:06 From Pat Forbes : And thanks for that analogy, Chuck. I hope you don't mind if I use it in the future.

14:46:07 From Chuck Berger : Nope...go ahead

14:51:36 From Becky Bond : I have to drop off.

14:55:53 From James Stewart : I have to drop off. Sorry guys

14:56:24 From Russell Kelly Sr. : Technical support includes accurate data.

14:57:02 From Rachelle Sanderson : Thanks to those who have been on the line and have had to drop off!

15:02:23 From Russell Kelly Sr. : The example I have provided of elevation changes of significance should be critical for Riverbend Subdivision and the area. False data has been enter as accurate per engineer(s) and many may appear to look the other way. Is this group big enough to acknowledge and correct for the good of all.

15:03:50 From Rachelle Sanderson : Hey Russell, thanks for bringing this up. Information and data will be critical as we make decisions now and in the future.

15:05:41 From Honora Buras : As to O&M, it would be useful for the coalition to develop recommended best practices.



15:06:25 From Chuck Berger : Russell, that is probably the type of information that needs to get to the Data and Modeling TAGs and the modelers. The region can help make that happen.

15:06:59 From Evelyn Campo : Good point Honora, it seems like that may be similar to option C, is that what you're thinking?

15:07:35 From Honora Buras : Sort of, but these could be outside of any specific plan.

15:07:49 From Evelyn Campo : Got it, thank you!

15:10:20 From Pat Forbes : I think you need an "all of the above" option

15:20:21 From Earl Matherne : hey guys, I got to go, thanks everyone

15:22:02 From Larry Bankston : Is there any intent to introduce legislation in this session?


15:23:43 From Russell Kelly Sr. : While we must be focused we also must be aggressive in thinking and problem solving.

15:26:28 From Rachelle Sanderson : rsanderson@crpcla.org 816.830.3633

15:29:52 From Chuck Berger : chuck.berger@la.gov

15:30:02 From Chuck Berger : 225-931-6310

DRAFT



LWI Region 7 Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting

JANUARY 7, 2020

RACHELLE SANDERSON, CRPC

KIM MAROUSEK, CRPC

PAT FORBES, OCD

EVELYN CAMPO, OCD

NICOLETTE JONES, OCD

DR. THOMAS DOUTHAT, LSU

LINDSEY LAMANA, LSU



LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

working together for sustainability and resilience



AGENDA

1. Introductions and meeting logistics
2. Where we've been
3. Moving towards a provisional governance recommendation
4. Public comment
5. Closeout





1. Introductions and meeting logistics



Regional Steering Committee Meetings

- Will adhere to Louisiana Open Meetings requirements:
- Observable to the public
- Provide opportunity for public comments
- Opportunity to increase public's trust and awareness of the work of the RSC
- Importance of transparency and decision-tracking
- 24-hour advance notice of the meeting
- Allow for recording of the meeting by the audience
- Record minutes of the proceedings for public record



Roll Call and Notes

Roll Call: Please let us know if you are an alternate member

This is a public meeting:

- The meeting is being recorded and will be posted for public viewing
 - All comments made in the “chat pod” are written public comments
 - Comments from the steering committee can be made throughout the presentations
 - There is a specific time for public comments at the end of the meeting
-
- ❖ Please use your video camera during the meeting if possible
 - ❖ If anyone is having technical difficulties, please place a message in the chat pod

RSC Deliverables

Regional Steering Committee Deliverables

- Develop long-term governance structure. Provisional recommendation due January 31, 2021
- Identify projects to recommend for funding due June 2021



Region 7 Goals

Region 7 Goals from [Guiding Principles Framework](#)

- Equitable flood risk reduction (climate and environmental equity)
- Address urban/rural split and resource disparity
- Upstream/downstream coordination
- Identify funding sources (short and long-term)
- Regional planning efforts and the development of a comprehensive strategy that is beyond political terms
- Understand, anticipate, and incorporate the impacts of migration and population shifts due to acute (flood events) and chronic (land loss and rising seas) disasters within our strategies
- *Goals are also broken down into policy and planning, projects and programs, and data collection and management.



Thank you & a quick icebreaker

- For your role(s) in getting us to this point where we are discussing governance model options

Icebreaker poll:

- Let's be honest... Where are you at with regards to virtual meetings?
 - I love them! I hope we never go back to in-person meeting!
 - They have been a great addition to my toolbox and I also see the value in meeting in-person for some meetings
 - I can hardly stand to be on this one!



Ground rules

These are “rules of engagement” for how we will be interacting with one another.

We will aspire to:

- 1. Be brief and meaningful when voicing your opinion**
- 2. Seek common ground and understanding (not problems and conflict)**
- 3. Consider what serves the benefit of the entire region**



Introductions



NAME

Mike Enlow and/or Ron Savoy

Tom Stephens and/or Fred Raiford

James Stewart and/or Joni Stone

John Clark

Mark Harrell and/or Steve Kistler

Earl Matherne and/or Stephanie Bruning

Major Coleman and/or Jeremy Williams

Ryan Donadieu and/or Ryan Larousse

Devin Foil and/or Rene Pastorek

Ross Liner and/or Jay Watson

Bridget Bailey and/or Melissa Cowart

Bobbi Jo Breland and/or Alex Sumrall

Gary Mego and/or Emily Cobb

Dietmar Rietschier and/or Larry Bankston

Karen Zito and/or Diane Baum

Chuck Berger and/or John Sheehan, Binh Dao

Ronny Carter and/or Kim Coates

AFFILIATION

Ascension Parish

East Baton Rouge Parish

East Feliciana

Iberville Parish

Livingston Parish

St. Charles Parish

St. Helena Parish

St. James Parish

St. John the Baptist Parish

St. Tammany Parish

Tangipahoa Parish

Washington Parish

West Feliciana Parish

Amite River Basin Commission

Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge

Department of Environmental Quality

Pontchartrain Conservancy and Tangipahoa Parish Council





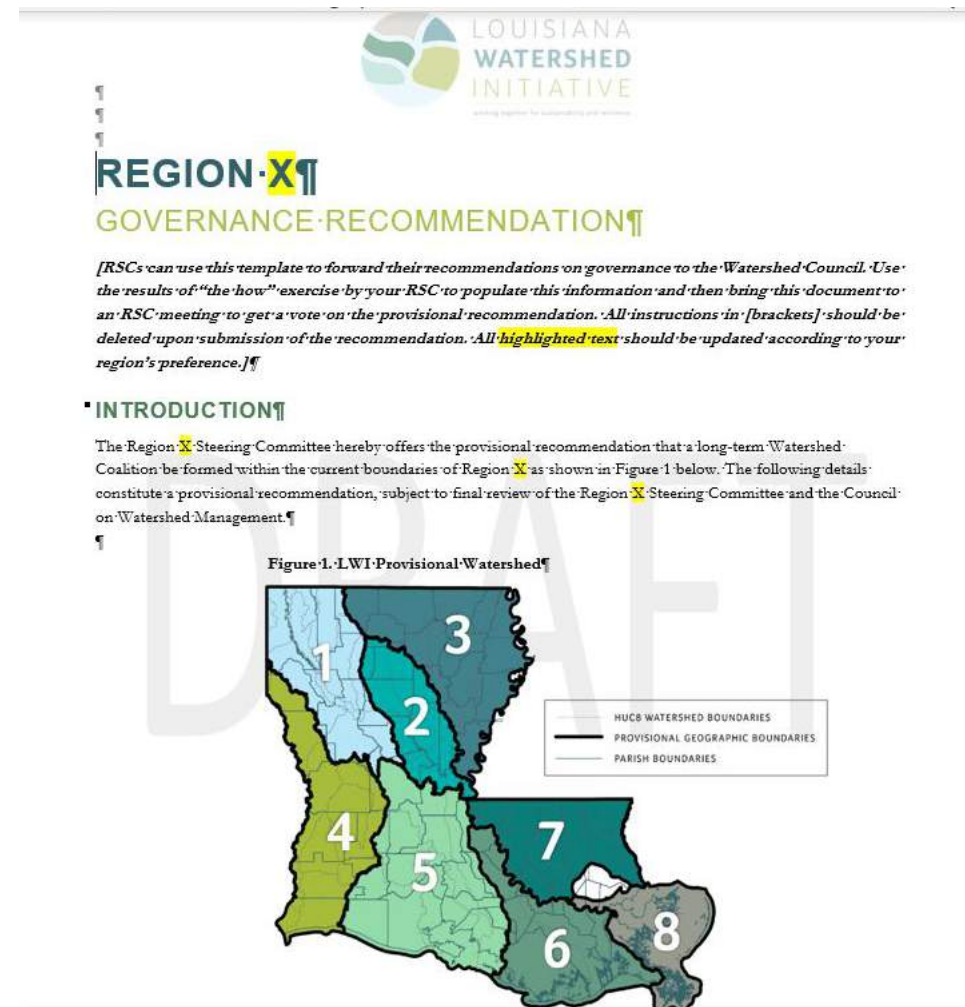
2. Where we've been



Provisional recommendation

Template

- Received 12/8/20 from OCD. Must be filled out, and voted on, by 1/31/21
- Components include:
 - Regional summary including the function of the governance structure
 - How the recommendation will be implemented including:
 - (1) Name of entity staffing the coalition and how this work is enabled
 - (2) The relationship of the entity to other regions, the state, and federal government
 - (3) Who is represented
 - (4) Needs from the state
 - (5) Boundaries of the region, are they the same, changing, etc.
 - (6) Funding abilities of the entity
 - (7) How involved the regions are in the drafting of legal elements related to the recommendation
 - **This will be vague and will be built out over time**



Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16, Goals

SECTION 3: The goals of this Council include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Promoting a unified effort, built on a solid foundation of scientific and engineering principles, to address flooding issues across the state.
- B. Identifying and working with or seeking input from additional local, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders including, but not limited to, The Water Institute of the Gulf (TWIG) and other not-for-profit research institutions, the Louisiana State University Center for River Studies (LSU CRS) and other university research institutions, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and other state agencies, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other federal agencies, drainage district boards, local, state and private sector experts to develop, implement, improve and evaluate the necessary components of a Louisiana Watershed-based Floodplain Management Program.
- C. Expanding, developing and using in-state skill, knowledge, technology and talent to develop and implement the program promoting Louisiana resources through collaboration, communication, and coordination among governmental, non-governmental, for-profit, non-profit and university entities.
- D. Increasing state and local resilience to flooding by working to improve response to flooding and reduce the instances, damages, and amount of time needed to recover from flooding.
- E. Creating a path for the state and its various jurisdictions and political subdivisions to coordinate at a statewide and watershed level to maximize flood risk reduction in coordination with the natural and beneficial functions of the watershed and its floodplains, and to consistently manage floodplains using contextually appropriate best practices.
- F. Working within the interdependencies of our communities, infrastructure, political jurisdictions and natural environment to increase Louisiana's resilience and its ability to adapt and thrive.
- G. Promoting actions, including legislative, administrative, and regulatory, where appropriate, to enhance and expand floodplain management in Louisiana.
- H. Identifying, prioritizing, acquiring and establishing funding mechanisms to enhance the Louisiana Watershed-based Floodplain Management Program.
- I. Promoting watershed-based floodplain management by working to create watershed-based entities across the state.
- J. Developing an approach to watershed-based floodplain management that is recognized as a model for others nationally and internationally.

More than \$1.2B CDBG-MIT Investment



Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16, Goals




SECTION 3: The goals of this Council include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Promoting a unified effort, built on a solid foundation of scientific and engineering principles, to address flooding issues across the state. → Example: Models

- B. Identifying and working with or seeking input from additional local, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders including, but not limited to, The Water Institute of the Gulf (TWIG) and other not-for-profit research institutions, the Louisiana State University Center for River Studies (LSU CRS) and other university research institutions, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and other state agencies, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other federal agencies, drainage or levee boards and other local districts, and private sector experts to develop, implement, and evaluate the necessary components of a Louisiana Watershed-based Floodplain Management Program. → Example: Gauge network



Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16, Goals

- C. Expanding, developing and using in-state skill, knowledge, technology and talent to develop and implement the program, promoting Louisiana resources through collaboration, communication, and cooperation among governmental, non-governmental, for-profit, non-profit and university entities.
 Example: Regional Steering Committees, Georgetown Climate Center work
- D. Increasing state and local resilience to flooding by working to improve response to flooding and reduce the instances, damages, and amount of time needed to recover from flooding.
 Example: Funding of flood mitigation projects, capacity building programs
- E. Creating a path for the state and its various jurisdictions and political subdivisions to coordinate at a statewide and watershed level to maximize flood risk reduction in coordination with the natural and beneficial functions of the watershed and its floodplains, and to consistently manage floodplains using contextually appropriate best practices.
 Example: Regional Steering Committees



Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16, Goals

F. Working within the interdependencies of our communities, infrastructure, political jurisdictions and natural environment to increase Louisiana's resilience and its ability to adapt and thrive.

Example: Regional Steering Committees

G. Promoting actions, including legislative, administrative, and regulatory, where appropriate, to enhance watershed and floodplain management in Louisiana.

Example: Standup of regional coalitions, development standards



Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16, Goals

- H. Identifying, prioritizing, acquiring and establishing funding mechanisms to enhance the Louisiana Watershed-based Floodplain Management Program. → Example: Regional Steering Committees development of gov. structure
- I. Facilitating watershed-based floodplain management by working to create watershed-bounded entities across the state. → Example: Regional Steering Committees
- J. Developing an approach to watershed-based floodplain management that is recognized as a model for others nationally and internationally. → Example: Entire effort of Louisiana Watershed Initiative



Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16, Goals

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More than \$1.2B CDBG-MIT Investment



Reminders from previous conversations

Mission & Vision, August 19, 2020

- **LWI Mission:**
 - Reduce flood risk, improve floodplain management throughout the state and maximize the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains
- **Region 7 Vision:**
 - Region 7 envisions a future with less flood risk, healthier natural environments, and resilience practices that are responsive to the needs of our communities and to our evolving environment

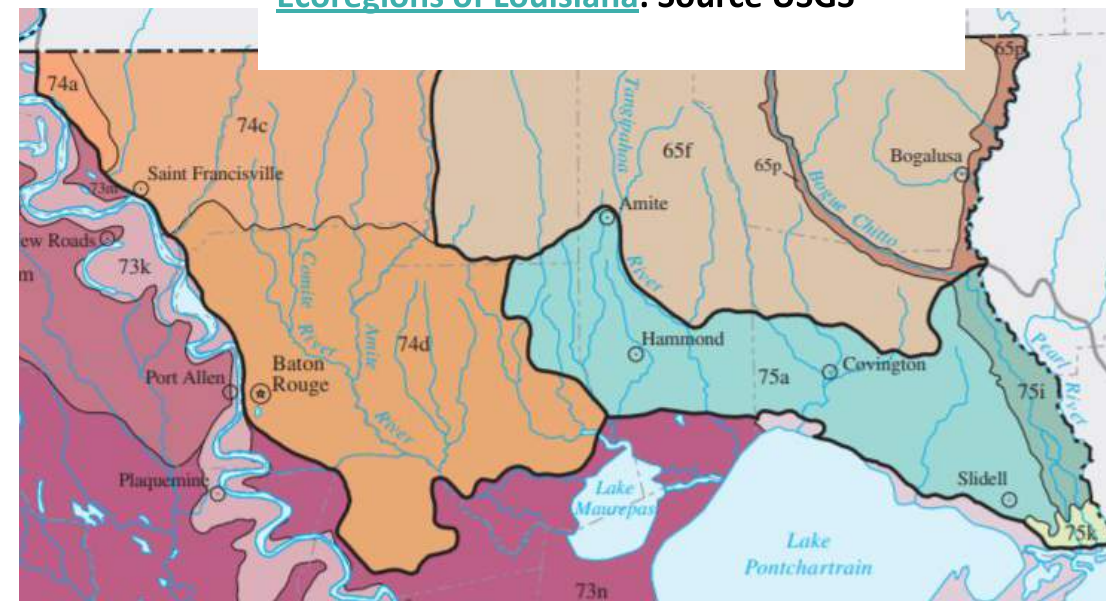


Reminders from previous conversations

How we're connected

“Incongruent planning... Most of our [challenges] are best addressed on the front-end during planning. There needs to be regional planning.”
- Chuck Berger

Ecoregions of Louisiana: Source USGS



“Collaborative planning for adjacent parishes that share streams, we need to have more of a collaboration with each other.”
- Bridget Bailey



HUC 6 + AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS: Source USGS + LADEQ



Reminders from previous conversations

Root causes we identified that we could impact on September 23, 2020

(1) Culturally, we favor individualism, less regulations, and autonomy to make our own decisions

(5) There is a lack of collaboration and coordination between government and non-government organizations and decision-makers.

(9) Uneven development standards and expectations

(13) Investments and resources are focused on current, immediate needs instead of preventative actions that resolve both current and future challenges.

(2) We live in an area prone to flooding

(6) There is a lack of education and understanding of flood risk and its impacts and relationship to land-use.

(10) There is a lack of enforcement with regard to regulations and variances are granted often.

(14) There is a design gap. Current design and development ideas and standards do not offer opportunities to build resiliently at multiple scales

(3) Flood risk activities are not considered from a holistic perspective

(7) The need is greater than the existing resources

(11) Our systems and institutions are not designed to effectively balance growth with sustainability

(15) Our development does not happen on the same timescale as the updates to our flood map.

(4) The scale of our challenges does not match the scale of our decision-making

(8) Our growth is occurring as a result of migration.

(12) Decisions are made on a time horizon that is shorter than the length of a home mortgage or a generation

(16) We're managing the consequences of years-old decisions while trying to reduce flood risk within the development decisions we're making today.

Reminders from previous conversations

Identifying opportunities, September 23, 2020

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO TURN THESE CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT DO THESE OPPORTUNITIES LOOK LIKE AS AN ACTION?

INSERT, IN ORDER, MOST SELECTED SOLUTIONS

1. Increased capacity and capability (15%)

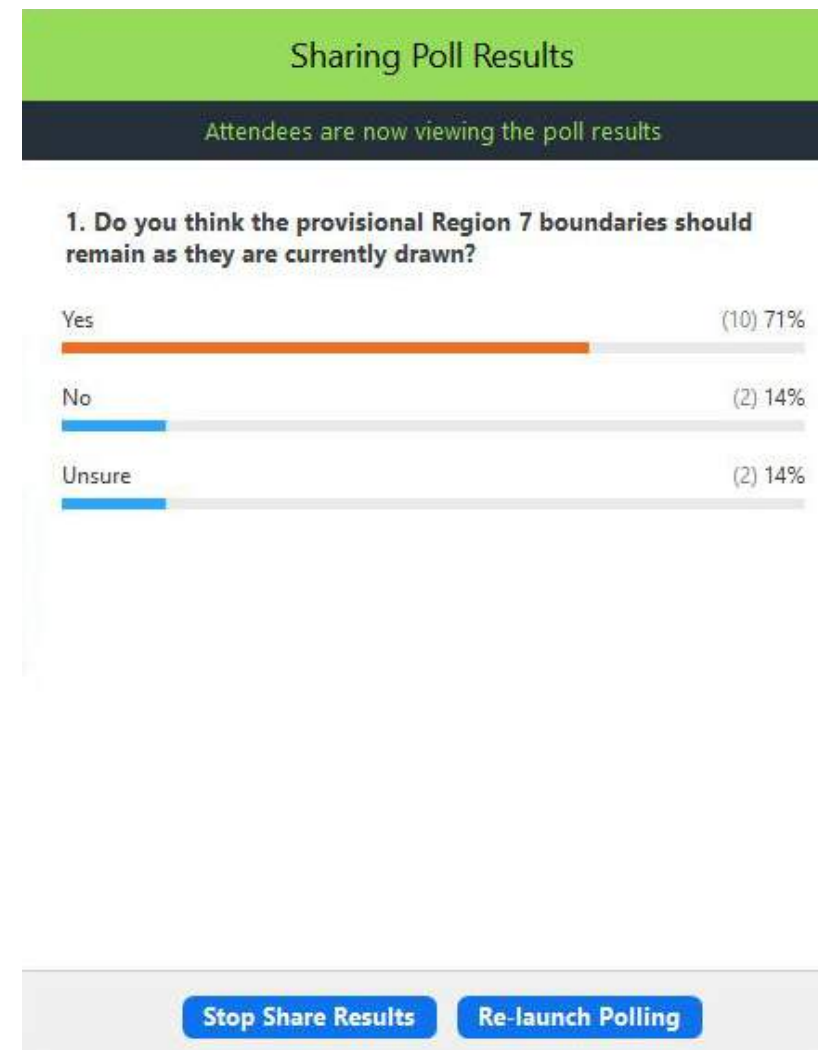
1. **Partnerships and collaboration** to leverage and utilize to fill gaps that parishes and municipalities have, partner with other agencies who fill gaps that RSC has. Recruit professional organizations, **strategically staff technical expertise that can be shared across jurisdictions** (not one jurisdiction needs to have all of the staff, they can be shared)
2. Establish points of contact for one organization/agency to take on a particular task (like modeling for subdivision development across a region). Creates consistency in the reports as well. Burden shifts to an established point of contact instead of being across the entire region with multiple points. **Consistency and concurrency review.** Would lead to better information down the road because we're building data over time.
3. **Integrate academia and the business community**
4. Consultants developing items should present on a regular basis to the members of the long-term governance structure so information is shared. **Continual engagement with committee members to move us forward.**



Reminders from previous conversations

Discussing boundaries, October 13, 2020

- Larger discussion around if the boundaries are changed, there needs to be a significant reason to do so
- “Leave it where it is because it has been decided based on a hydrological basis.” – Earl Matherne
- “Leave it as is unless there’s a compelling case to change it.” – Karen Zito
- “If there is no advantage to [changing the boundaries] then we should be good.” – Kim Coates



Reminders from previous conversations

Discussing funding, November 2, 2020

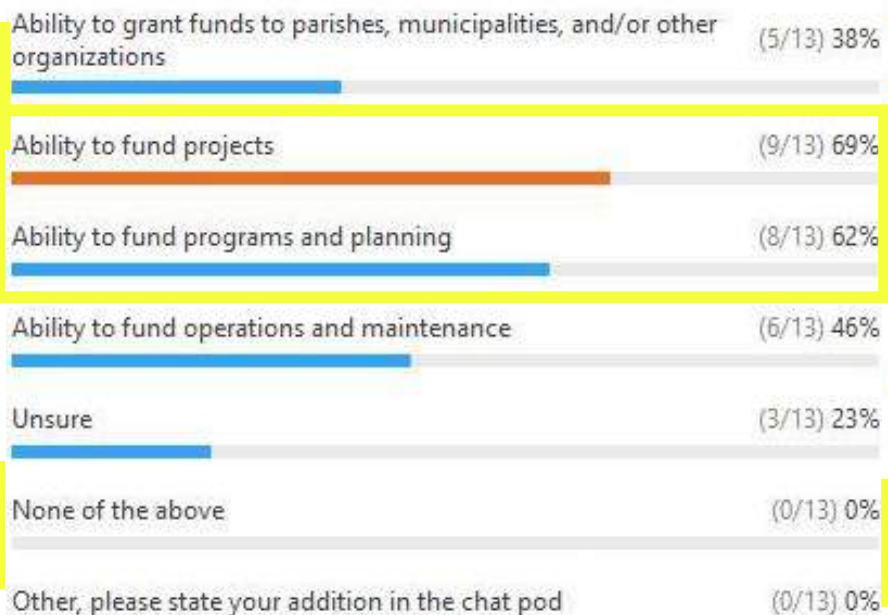
1. What might be the mechanism(s) for funding?

You can select multiple answers. (Multiple choice)

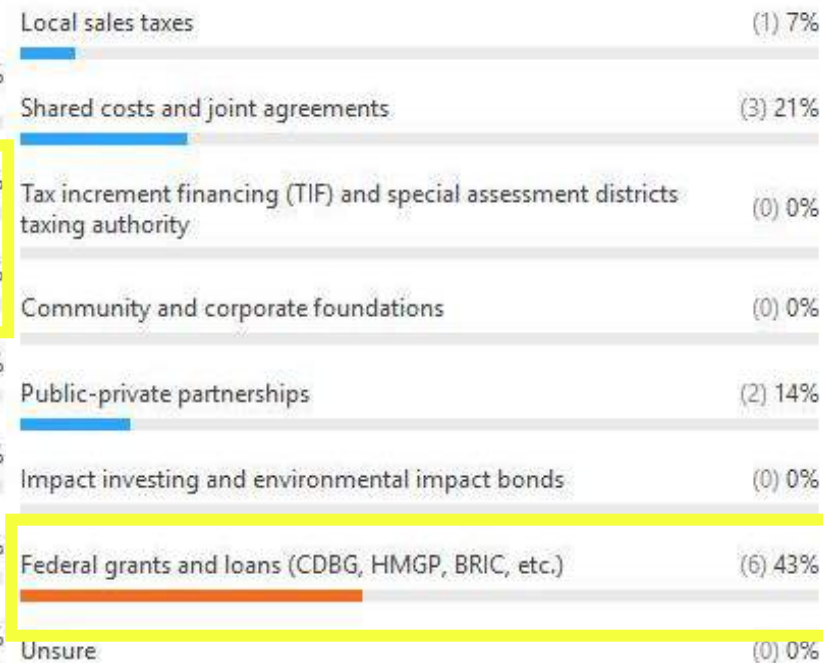


1. What resource needs do we have to fund the work of the coalition?

You can pick more than one answer. (Multiple choice)



1. Of the following funding mechanisms, which are you the most familiar with?

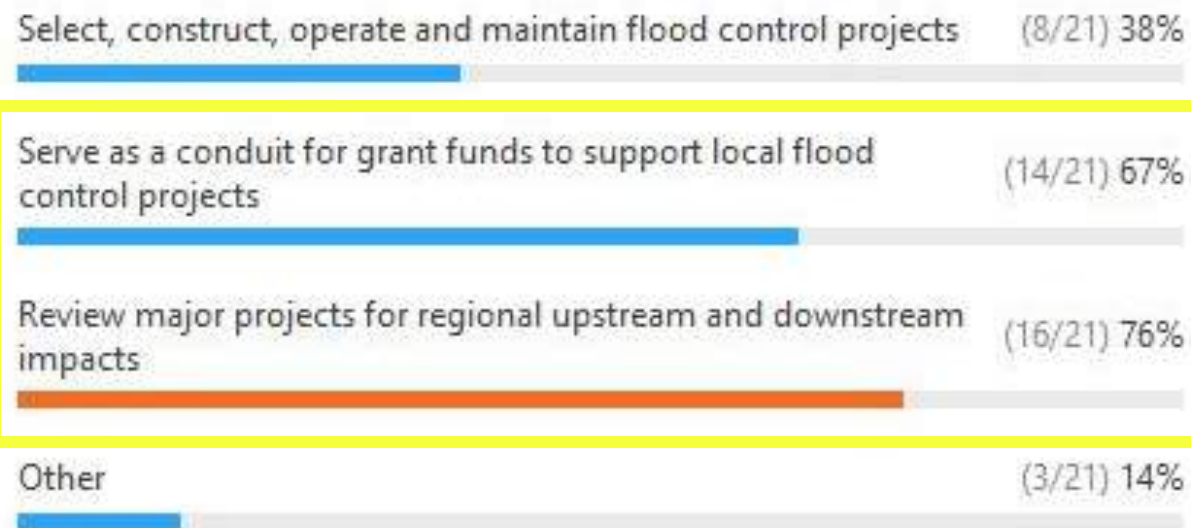


Reminders from previous conversations

Discussing potential functions, November 19, 2020

1. Which of the following would you suggest our regional coalition do?

You can select multiple answers. (Multiple choice)



1. Which of the following would you suggest our regional coalition do?

You can select multiple answers. (Multiple choice)

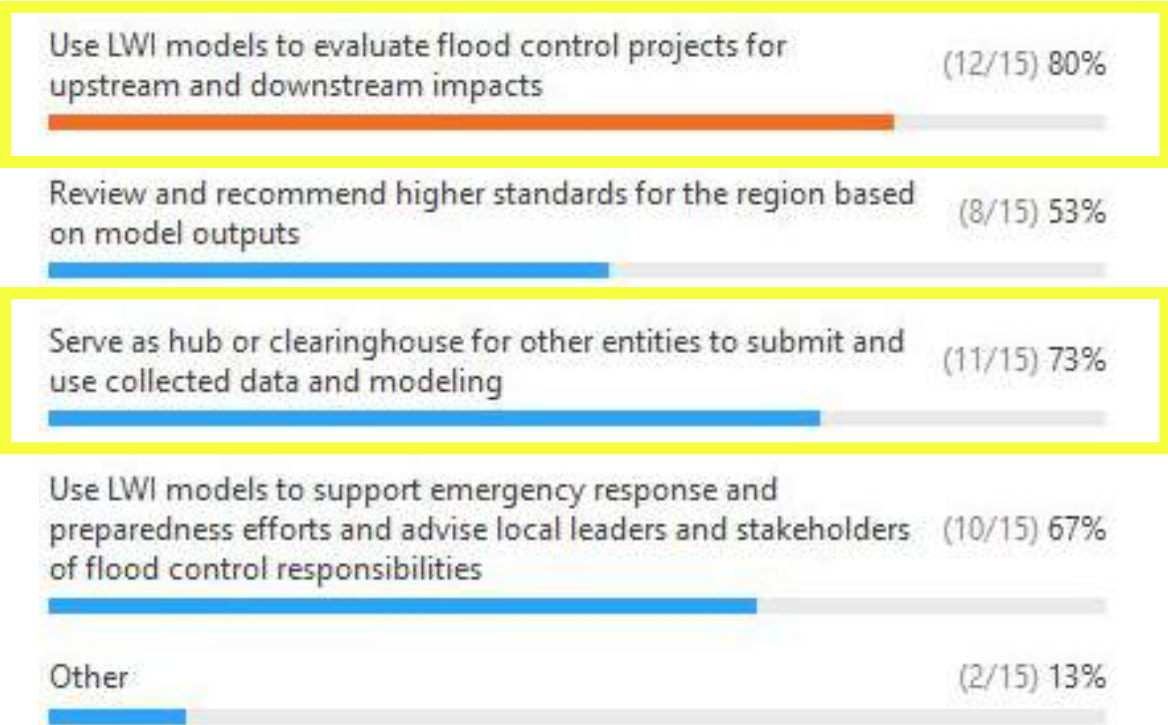


Reminders from previous conversations

Discussing potential functions, November 19, 2020

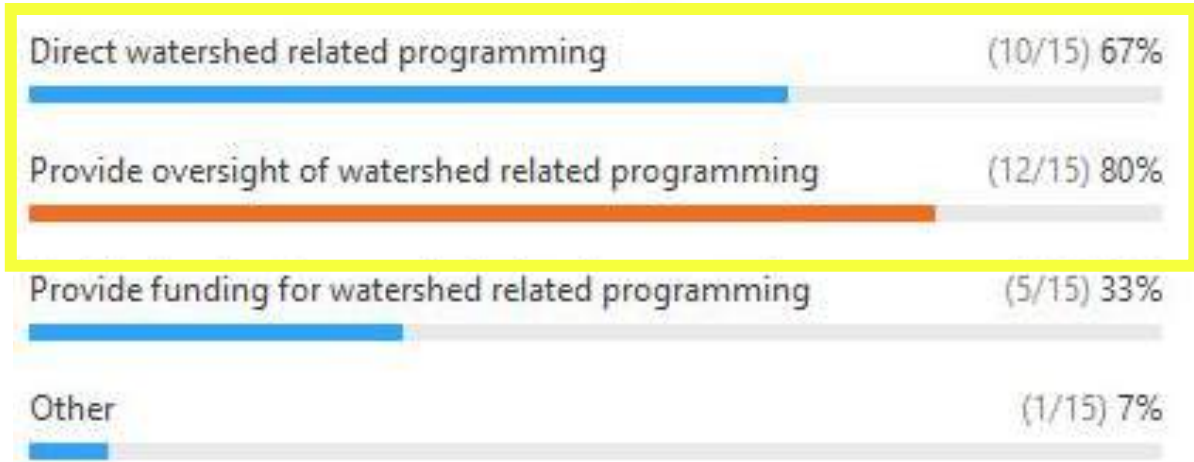
1. Which of the following would you suggest our regional coalition do?

You can select multiple answers. (Multiple choice)



1. Of the following options which is the most likely role for Region 7 watershed with regards to watershed programming (outreach, engagement, and education for public, staffers, elected officials is an example)?

You can select multiple answers. (Multiple choice)



Reminders from previous conversations

Discussing potential functions, November 19, 2020

1. Of the following options which is the most likely role for Region 7 with regards to watershed planning efforts?

You can select multiple answers. (Multiple choice)



Questions

Provisional governance recommendation

WHAT WE'VE ANSWERED

- **Name of entity staffing regional work:** Capital Region Planning Commission
- **Makeup of governance structure:** Mix of technical experts, elected officials (or their appointees), and citizens/organizations outside of government entities who represent them
- **How fixed the boundaries are:** Will not be changed unless there is a significant reason to do so
- **Funding abilities:** Be able to obtain external funding and maintain stable local funding
- **Work that will be done:** 4 buckets that get into more detail in the following slides (1) planning and development (2) outreach and engagement (3) projects (4) data and modeling

WHAT WE HAVEN'T ANSWERED

- How/if the governance structure is enabled by legislation under state charter
- How consistent regions are in their coalition charter
- What role the state should play
- What role the RSC and/or CRPC on behalf of the RSC should play in drafting legal elements that reflect recommendations





3. Moving towards a provisional governance recommendation



Discussion

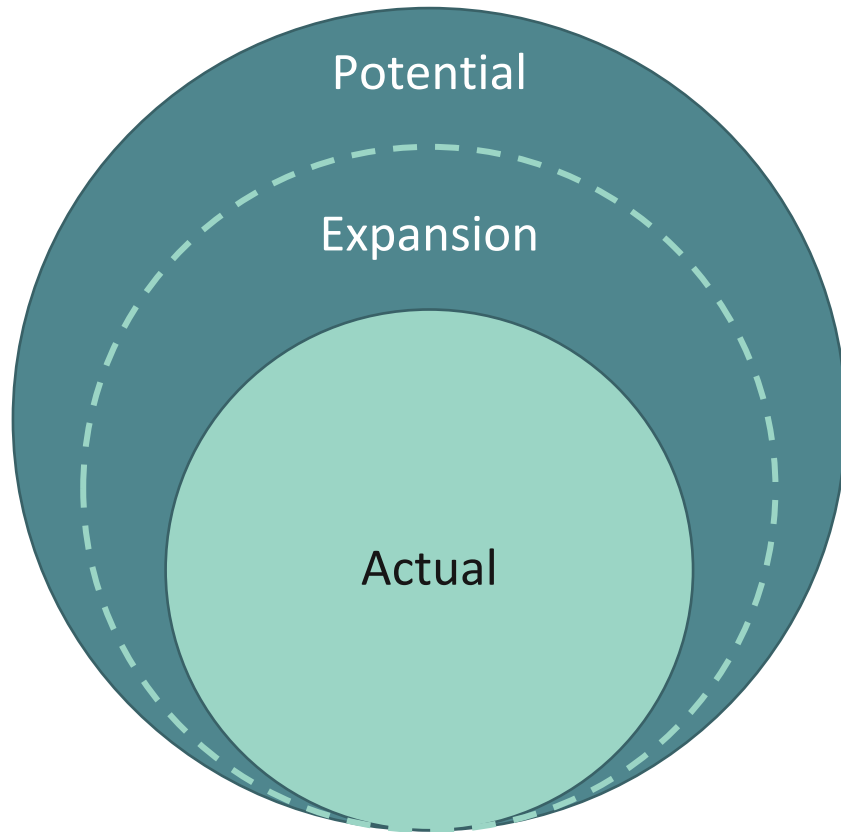
What we'll do in this section

1. Call out what we've heard
2. We will then have a poll to see how much the statement is/is not in alignment with what you think
3. Discussion
4. If we haven't heard enough to present back information, we'll simply ask the group via poll and will then engage in a discussion



Potential versus actual authority

NO ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL SOLUTION FOR WATERSHED REGIONS



OPTION:

- Regions may or may not choose to use all the authorities enabled as a result of this process.
- A framework of enabled, potential authorities can allow regions to adopt more authority as they see fit.

Region 7 summary: Coalition responsibilities



What we've heard

Planning and development regulations

- Provide technical assistance to local entities, who create floodplain management plans
- Provide oversight for regional planning processes
- Region should not issue development standards, but the state should adopt minimum development standards
- Region should provide technical assistance to local entities regarding the impact of development standards



Region 7 summary: Coalition responsibilities

What we've heard

Outreach and engagement

- Provide opportunities for watershed-related outreach and education
- Long-term capacity building from the region to public entities and citizens



Region 7 summary: Coalition responsibilities



What we've heard

Project implementation

- Review and/or provide technical assistance on major projects as deemed appropriate by the future bylaws of the coalition



Region 7 summary: Coalition responsibilities



What we've heard

Data and modeling (information from LWI model use, storage, and maintenance focus groups + RSC discussions)

- Models should initially be housed at the state-level and over time with support, capacity should be built at the regional level



Region 7 summary: Required authorizations



- Authority to review and/or provide technical assistance for regional projects
- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies
- Authority to oversee regional planning processes
- Authority to provide support for technical assistance related to outreach and education efforts and train the trainer programs



What other regions are considering

Please note this information is subject to change

- Most regions are considering their local regional planning agencies as the coordinating entities
- Many regions express the need for statewide standards
- Regions 1, 2, and 3 are considering what coordination and collaboration with neighboring states look like
- Region 5 is considering planning and implementation districts
- Region 6 is considering an opt in/out setup for localities that do not have the capacity for building code reviews, etc.
- Region 8 tentatively agreed to staff the coalition, possibly in coordination via public-private partnership with an NGO or other regional entity. But outcome is still TBD pending further discussion by the RSC.
- Work across the state revolves around regional entities serving as the facilitator of cross-jurisdictional collaboration, planning, etc.



How consistent should the regions be in their coalition charters?

QUESTION 2

- A. All regions should be authorized by a single charter that includes a list of standards and authorities. Each region chooses which standards or authorities to implement in accordance with its coalition bylaws.
- B. Each region should be considered separately and be independently chartered. Each charter should list the specific authorities and degrees of responsibility.
- C. Other
- D. Undecided

How could the coalition be chartered? Is there a preferred method?

QUESTION 3

- A. Legislatively via a state commission, board or agency
- B. Locally in accordance with the state charter
- C. Community-driven membership organization or a 501(c)(3)
- D. A combination of the above
- E. Whatever works best to accomplish the outcomes of regional recommendations
- F. Undecided

Projects discussion

1. Which of the following would you suggest our regional coalition do?

You can select multiple answers. (Multiple choice)

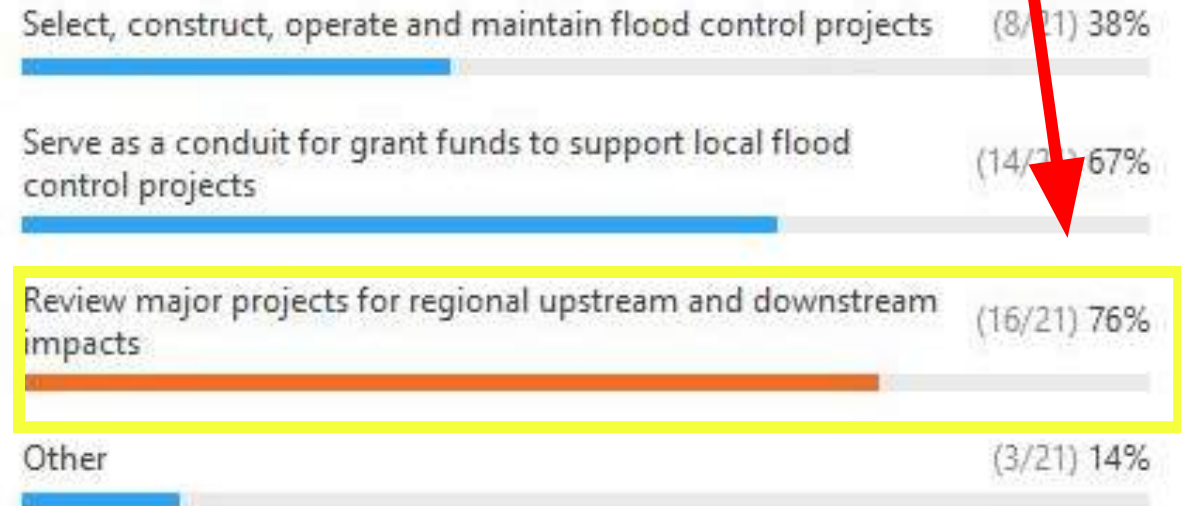


Let's explore the responses from our November 2 polls a bit more...



1. Which of the following would you suggest our regional coalition do?

You can select multiple answers. (Multiple choice)



How should projects be designed and selected?

Coalition **reviews projects** (voluntary or mandatory?)

Examples of how project review could work

<p>Specific role for the coalition in a state program</p>	<p>Voluntary coordination among RSC member communities in preparation to apply to a funding program</p>	<p>Coalition reviews project applications and selects projects to fund through funding streams that the coalition has discretion over</p>	<p>Coalition agrees to terms where certain local projects or developments can or must be reviewed by the coalition</p>	<p>Coalition staff runs the model on projects where applicable and issues review summary</p>	<p>Coalition offers to review projects and issues letters of support or recommendation for projects to be beneficial</p>
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How should projects be designed and selected?

Coalition **provides technical assistance** (voluntary or mandatory?)

Examples of what technical assistance looks like

<p>Provide assistance with application submission for certain programs for communities with low capacity</p>	<p>Co-design project concepts/development cross-region</p>	<p>Provide assistance with data collection/modeling efforts for projects</p>	<p>Co-design mitigation and/or adaptation measures for project and/or environmental impacts</p>
--	--	--	---

Who operates and maintains projects?



QUESTION 4

- A. Coalition owns land / structures that are the sites of some flood control projects, conducts O&M for these projects
- B. Coalition has some responsibilities for project maintenance or drainage system maintenance, but doesn't own the land
- C. Coalition supports local jurisdictions with O&M/drainage system maintenance, ex: helps draft and update drainage maintenance plans
- D. Coalition has no responsibility for O&M on any projects/drainage system components
- E. Defer to the rest of the group
- F. Undecided and need more time to consider

How does the coalition fund projects?

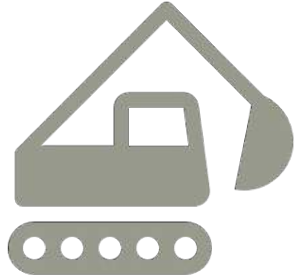


QUESTION 5

- A. Coalition works to get project funding from outside sources (grants, state funds, etc)
- B. Coalition disburses pooled funds from local members to spend on projects
- C. Coalition has a special assessment or millage or fee structure, has revenue generating capability to spend on projects
- D. Coalition doesn't fund projects (can still have operating costs paid through grants or local contributions)
- E. Defer to the rest of the group
- F. Undecided

Draft recomn

The work of Region 7



PROJECT |
Review of
projects a
the coaliti



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIO

Provide technical assistance to local entit
planning and evaluating development sta
Provide oversight for regional planning p



REGION X

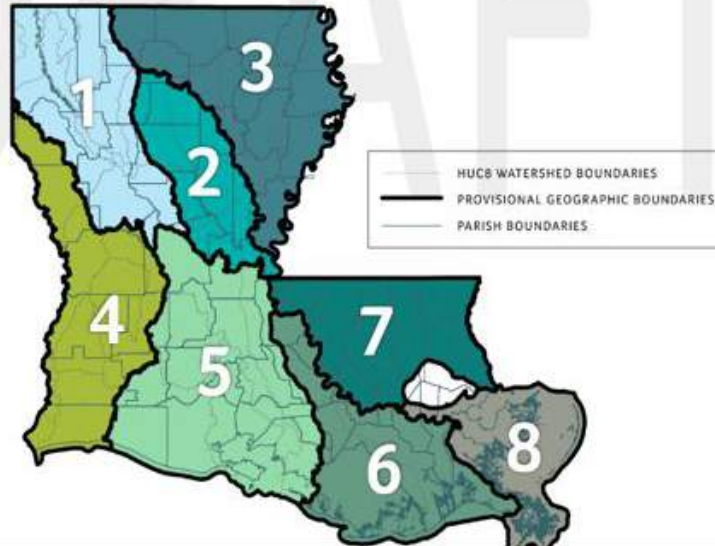
GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

[RSCs can use this template to forward their recommendations on governance to the Watershed Council. Use the results of "the how" exercise by your RSC to populate this information and then bring this document to an RSC meeting to get a vote on the provisional recommendation. All instructions in [brackets] should be deleted upon submission of the recommendation. All highlighted text should be updated according to your region's preference.]

INTRODUCTION

The Region X Steering Committee hereby offers the provisional recommendation that a long-term Watershed Coalition be formed within the current boundaries of Region X as shown in Figure 1 below. The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region X Steering Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed



COLLABORATIVE.

of it we are bringing
ors across the region
know that by working
wards a shared vision and
n maximize our impact
ore resources to the



CH & ENGAGEMENT.

opportunities for watershed-related
and education
m capacity building from the region to
ities and citizens

Draft recommendation



Roadmap

WHO

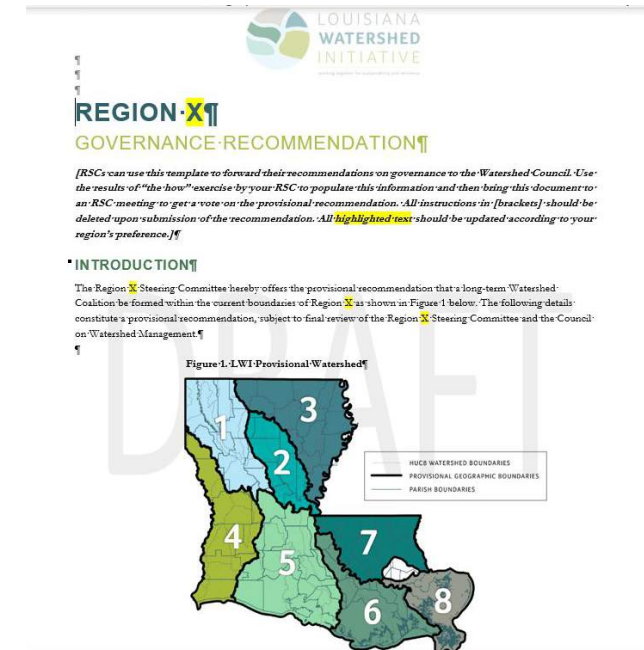
- CRPC should facilitate meetings of the coalition and perform administrative functions related to the work of the coalition
- The coalition should be composed of a mix of technical experts, elected officials (or their appointees), and citizens/organizations outside of government entities who represent them
- The coalition should have oversight by a state agency

WHAT

- The coalition may have subcommittees or working groups relevant to areas of focus, geographic areas, jurisdictional representation, etc.
- The regional watershed boundaries should remain as is and be recognized/approved by a state agency/board/program

HOW

- The coalition should be enabled by legislation under state charter
- All watershed coalitions in the state should be authorized this way
- The coalition should have the ability to obtain external funding and maintain stable local funding
- The state should lead the effort to draft legal elements that reflect these recommendations
- State should adopt minimum development standards



Next steps

Regions

November – January

Provisional recommendations

January – April

Outreach and engagement

May – June

Revisit and refine recommendations

State

November – January

Operational guidance

January – April

Options to align with regional recommendations considered

May – June



5. Public comment (Rachelle)



Public Comment



2:00

If members of the RSC or public would like to make a comment, please do so by unmuting your microphone or by use of the chat pod at this time. Thank you.





6. Closeout (Rachelle)



How will we build out our gov. structure?



Closeout

- Adoption of December 15 meeting minutes
- Upcoming meetings:
 - Jan. 28 from 1 to 3:30pm, if you need more information prior to the vote contact Rachelle ASAP
- Action items
- Visit CRPC's website at <https://crpcla.org/> for more information on Region 7
- Visit the LWI website at <https://watershed.la.gov/> for more information on LWI



Contact information

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DRatcliff@crpcla.org

Kim Marousek, AICP, Director of Planning
Kmarousek@crpcla.org



Capital Region Planning Commission

Local Governments Working Together Since 1967



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t @LAWATERSHED

i @LAWATERSHED

in LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE

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THANK YOU



WATERSHED.LA.GOV

REGION 7

JANUARY 28 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Accompanying slides and a recording of this meeting can be found online at <https://crpcla.org/previous-events-archive>. Please note that any time that you see “RSC” in this document, it stands for Regional Steering Committee. Anytime that you see “LWI” in this document, it stands for Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING LOGISTICS

REGION 7 GOALS

- Guiding Principles Framework - available at crpcla.org.

RSC DELIVERABLES

- January 31st, 2021 – develop provisional governance recommendation.
- July 2021 (subject to change) – identify projects to recommend for funding.

Thank you and Icebreaker Poll: Would you rather...

- 79% - Eat your favorite meal everyday for the rest of your life.
- 15% - Eat a different meal everyday for the rest of your life.

GROUND RULES FOR INTERACTING

1. Be brief and meaningful when voicing your opinion.
2. Seek common ground and understanding (not problems and conflict).
3. Consider what serves the benefit of the entire region.
4. When presenting a challenge, offer a solution.

Incorporating a new practice

- We will be adding the concept of an “idea marina” in our discussions. This means when a discussion comes up that is not related to the goals of the meeting, we’ll put it in the idea marina to revisit at a later date.

Reminders from previous conversations (Chuck Berger and Ross Liner)

- LWI Mission and Vision



WHERE WE'VE BEEN

A QUICK RECAP

- August 19th, 2020 – creating a vision, values, and goals for this region (Guiding Principles Framework)
- September 23, 2020 – identifying root causes that we could impact and transforming challenges into opportunities and then into actions.
- October 13, 2020 – Region 7 boundaries discussion
- November 2, 2020 – funding discussion
- November 19, 2020 – discussing potential functions
- December 15, 2020 – governance models...
- January 7, 2021 – moving towards a provisional governance ... everything that was stated from the previous meeting

Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16, Goals (Ross Liner)

- Ross Liner: Very innovative concept, just want to point out a few key points in the EO (A-J).
- Rachele: More than \$1.2B. This is an investment. We are building out a structure that is meant to be long-term to bring other resources to the state and region.

Potential versus actual authority

- Evelyn Campo: We are working within this larger framework. One thing that we frame into this is knowing we can't make a one size fits all for all the regions. We do need to recognize that we are working within the framework of others within the state. Enablement of a long-term watershed body may leave us some room to grow. It may be that this body is enabled with some important responsibilities and ... they can grow into a role that better fits the needs of the region as it changes and evolves.

Next steps, provisional gov. recs.

- Rachele Sanderson: We want to let yall know specifically that this it not the final document. This is a milestone marker moment to get some feed back so we can revisit and refine those recommendations over the summer.
- Evelyn Campo: The state and the region are working on similar work at the same time. The state is looking at state agency alignment and how they interact with the region. Also, once this region reaches their recommendation and wants recs from the other region are in, then the state will respond to that input. We are getting to a critical point as Rachele said, one of our main jobs going forward is for the members of the committee to explain and state to take that next step.



TODAY'S MEETING PROCESS

Rachelle Sanderson: Address two items in questions where there was not consistency among committee members. We are also going to go through some of the changes that were made on the 7th and some of the recommendations that came up after the draft was sent out.

Rachelle Sanderson: Walk through the provisional gov recs together. includes what does the more finalized language look like and walk through each section together as a group

Rachelle Sanderson: Vote on the prov gov rec abstaining will not be an option.

WHAT OTHER REGIONS ARE CONSIDERING.

Please note that the items below do not reflect actions that Region 7 will consider taking. These items reflect what other regions are considering within their provisional governance recommendations.

Region 5 (Kelia Bingham)

- Still working on gov recommendation, next month we will officially adopt it. Highlighted the major points of our recommendation
- A lot of rural communities aren't participating in CSRS, but they should. We want to provide that resource.
- Permitting – construction, does not include planning and development permits
- We have a lot of districts, and we want to involve and coordinate with them.
- We have the Acadiana regional gauge network that involves 8 parishes in the region, this will complement and enhance LWI's gauge network.
- Roadmap – APC is the agency that will...
- State recs – agreed we want a state enabled authority for legislative and fiscal authority for oversight
- increased authority to develop minimum standards
- Ross: Thank you, this gives me a lot to think about.

Region 6 (Patrick Gordon)

- Our watershed has five of the parishes that watershed 7 encompasses, we have 16 parishes altogether in Region 6. We held 9 regular meeting, and 6 subcommittee meetings. 5 were CFM outreach to get the floodplain managers certified and have a CFM in each one of our 16 parishes. Our coalition is willing to step-up and be the CFM for the parishes that don't have the capacity. We are looking at the possibility of brining on a CFM to handle the smaller parishes and work on CSRS.
- Provisional recommendation was passed yesterday. This is just the foundation recommendations, we will be moving into engagement and outreach, then find the recommendations based on the input from the public, stakeholders, and elected officials. This brought up concern because they didn't want a consulting team to be outreach. We got the point across to OCD to get a member of the steering committee to be outreach.



- We had three exercises, there were numerous surveys. The governance survey entailed who does the work, what consists of the work, and how does it get done. After we set up a sub-committee that took that information and compiled it into a rec based on the template that the state gave us. Recommendations followed...
- We would like to create, or update firms based on the upcoming models. the authorities contract with other government agencies is essential.
- Elected SCPC to be facilitator at the meetings, and the coalition should be enabled by legislation under a state charter and all watersheds should be authorized by a single charter. Coalition be composed of public entity representatives.
- When it comes to flooding, the elected officials get the wrap so they should be the officials on the recommendations. Districts, institutes could all play a part in this by participating in a technical or advisory committee and set up similarly to an MPO. The coalition should have oversight by the established state agency for the watershed initiative. We are looking for a specific agency to have oversight over the coalitions. The boundaries should be recognized legislatively. If changed, through legislation. The coalition should have the ability to maintain all options for funding. we have every intention on working with the state but do not believe we should put together a draft and send to the state to tell them what needs to take place.
- Development of regulations was the biggest controversy. If the state were to develop regulations and said that the coalition was to enforce, we would have a problem. The region would not be in favor, but if there were development standards set up by the watershed coalition and one of the communities didn't have the capacity, the coalition could step in with the approval of the local community.

Region 8 (Tom Haysley)

- We had the recommendations approved by our committee on the 21st. A lot is fairly detailed but a lot of these are covered by the guiding principles. Our coalition recommends planning at the regional level and sub-level owing to the fact that our system is engineered, and watersheds are artificially separated between one another. Want planning process to be multi-faceted to recognize the larger things we are dealing with such as climate change and disparate impacts to disadvantaged comms.
- Implementation – one of the things we talked about most within or community. Mainly, see our coalition functioning as an entity that we receive and distribute funds for projects. We would not be doing direct construction but helping our governments implement their own projects. Within that, we see us setting standards and making that compliance a condition of receiving funding.
- We see ourselves not just doing public outreach but acting as a liaison to our state and elected officials and acting on behalf of our members.
- Required authorities – ability to receive and distribute funds regardless of the source. more importantly or just as, need authority to act on behalf of local entities. If we are going to be doing this work, we are essentially asking them to give us the authority to do this for them which some may not be happy with. We need to be given this authority by the state and the local governments.



- Roadmap – we have come up with a unique model in that we are seeking a partnership model in which there will be a single lead entity that will work as the ... seeking public-private partnership model. See regions be able to determine their own structure. Not all the regions are the same.
- Recommendations for state – strategy for how this will be achieved. Want to make sure that whatever happens, we can rely on stable long-term funding for long-term planning, recognizing the political and physical constraints in the state. Make contingency plans for if we can't get the ideal level of authorization and funding. What is going to happen and what are our plans for making sure that we can still have these coalitions doing this work?

A FEW CHANGES IN THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION LANGUAGE (RACHELLE SANDERSON)

- Will be reflected in the documents the RSC was sent and on the website.
- The use of “Region 7 Watershed Body”
- Regional summary
 - planning and development regulation
 - Updated text: Provide oversight for -> provide guidance and coordination
 - Updated text: the state should adopt minimum development standards -> based on local environmental, planning, and risk factors
- Recommended authorities
 - Addition: authority to receive, manage, and distribute funds from governmental

Comments received prior to the meeting

- Three buckets of detail
 - Detailed feedback
 - Feedback that has been incorporated.... language changes that are more in alignment with what the text actually says.
- Feedback to consider at a later date
 - Projects
 - Representation
 - Planning and development regulation
 - Data and modeling
 - What is the larger list of data we have available to us?

Incorporated feedback

- Existing language and recommended change
 - Planning and Development Regulation -> Planning and Development Guidance
 - Project Implementation -> Support for Projects
 - Define PDDs and MPOs ->



- Reservoirs
- Regional planning efforts

Going through edits in real-time

- Planning and development guidance – no comments.
 - Provide coordination for – no comments.
- Support for Projects – no comments.

For discussion

- Page 2 under Regional Summary, Planning and Development Guidance
 - Larry Bankston: The Project Implementation is too broad. "Review and provide technical assistance." The word "Review" implies a subject to approval.
 - Earl Matherne: Would like to see that states at a minimum and the have region be able to see own specific minimum. The parish could stick with the minimum or go more stringent if they needed to.
 - Chuck Berger: Need for the region to have its own minimum standards.
 - Ren Clark: If the 'minimum' is not a regulation, couldn't it be ignored?
 - Larry Bankston: A state standard of what? minimum elevation?
 - Chuck Berger: We are talking about development standards here, right?
 - Evelyn Campo: This recommendation is an initial trajectory. It is not necessarily going to have a detailed policy standard within the body of this text. It is setting the tone for what the coalition may decide to do or not to do. The important point is we know that there are ways we can improve and we want to take them on together so we are on a unified front.
 - Larry Bankston: How can you have a development standard for Union parish the same as Orleans? That simply cannot work.
 - Bridget Bailey: I suggest bullet #3 to read.
 - Dietmar Rietschier: Need to make a bullet for general standards that can be imposed by the state. It needs to be laid out with what standards the state could potentially do. It is too general.
 - Evelyn Campo: You are proposing an approach in this document. This is just your opportunity to signal that you want your coalitions to pursue this.
 - Bridget Bailey: Maybe the statement could be "Region will provide 'recommended' development standards based on local environmental risk factors." Do not know that it needs to be descriptive or detailed.
 - Chuck Berger: I agree with Bridget. It might be represented at the state level, but it is coming from the Regions.
 - Becky Bond: I would just ask the question, this is Becky, If you have to go back to the elected officials in your city, parish, or whomever and explain that you signed off on this, as a representative on this panel are you be comfortable with that? Because they have to answer to people in whatever jurisdiction it is that they're representing.
 - Ross Liner: Yeah, I'm very proud



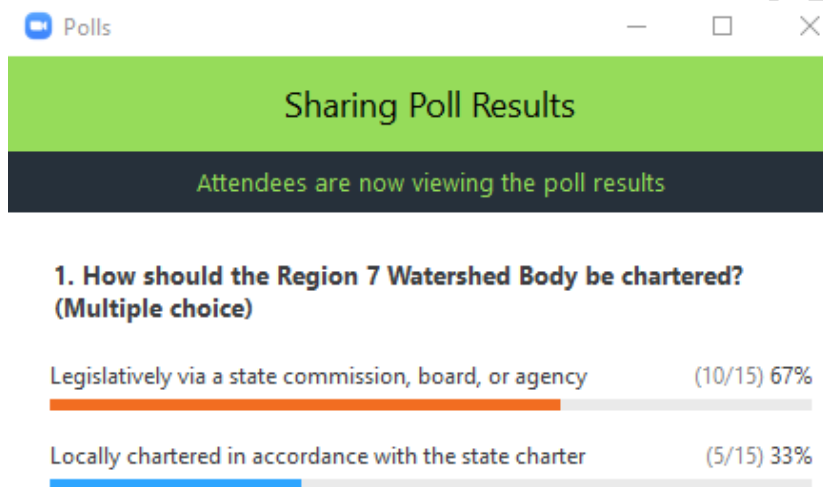
- Becky Bond: I mean that's the question that I think it needs to be asked. Do they understand what you're agreeing to and are you comfortable telling them that you agreed to it on their behalf?
- Ross Liner: Yes and let's all remember the key word in this particular milestone right now is provisional. So this is a milestone that we have to make as per the state and we are giving the state a roadmap at this intersection and we have an opportunity to change it moving forward. This is a first step and yes I would be very comfortable speaking to the Parish President about what we did here today, in fact I'm very proud of it
- Ronny Carter: I agree with you, Ross.
- Devin Foil: I also think if you look back at the timeline then the next phase is public outreach which includes going to Parish officials.
- Chuck Berger: Becky's right that we have to answer to other people for the decisions of this group. That's why each one of us was appointed to this group.
- Earl Matherne: This is Earl. I think at least my folks expected there to be some sort of guidance coming out of here. There's a little bit of a dangle of some money available and at least I assume there would be some regulatory provisions to make sure that you at least met some minimums.
- Rachele Sanderson: Thanks, y'all. That's really helpful. I have some suggested language and for full transparency within the process, what I'm doing is trying to incorporate this into the comments. I'm going to take a moment to stop sharing before we transition into the next section after this to send it to Kim Marousek who is going to incorporate the slides so that we can share it back.
- Larry Bankston: The question is whether we can have standards would be the same for the seven HUC's being the same?
- Earl Matherne: I assume there would be some regulatory provisions to make sure you are at the minimums.
- Chuck Berger: Recommended standards could be a set of standards for different conditions.
- Dietmar: This is extremely difficult to do but a great idea. The evolution of the process has to start at the local level.
- Page 3 under Data and Modeling, 2nd bullet
 - Romy Lacour: I agree that a minimum standard is different for various situations, and general guidelines will always miss the mark. Maybe it would be good enough to state a few basic /sets/ of guidelines and things to consider that local bodies could pick and mix. And financial means.
 - Dietmar Rietschier: Are we talking about a regional model? When you say modeling watersheds, it has to be very sophisticated to address issues we're talking about. How do you get a regional model to provide you with that? All models are not the same.
 - Russell Kelly Sr: Reads good but data input MUST be accurate which can be a challenge at times. These models are known to be less than needed in areas such as where drainage basin reservoirs fill/partially fill with groundwater. And of course old outdated standards
- Project Implementation Support for Project
 - Ronny Carter: Leave it as review.
 - Devin Foil: Leave it as review.
 - Ross Liner: I agree.
 - Bridget Bailey: I agree.



- Steve Kistler: Review for comment and suggestion.
- Ross Liner: Getting too specific handcuffs a little bit
- Earl Matherne: Maybe review for up and downstream effects?

Question 1:

- How should the Region 7 Watershed Body be chartered? **Zoom poll screen capture found below**
 - A. Legislatively chartered via a state commission, board, or agency – 67% (10/15)
 - B. The Region 7 Watershed Body should be locally in accordance with the state charter – 33% (5/15)
 - Example: Planning and Development Districts



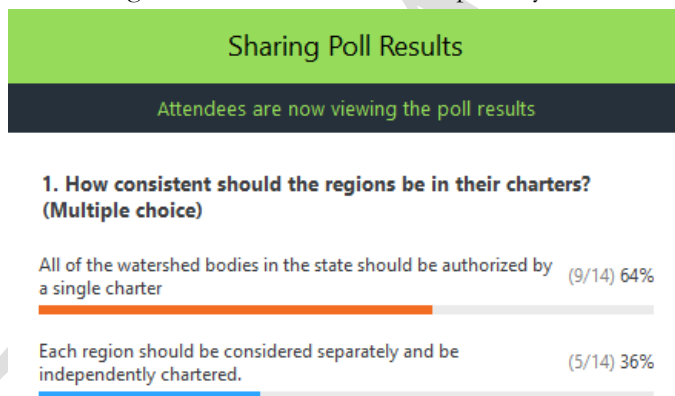
- Earl Matherne: Isn't the state going through the same process as we are?
- Evelyn Campo: We want to make sure that whatever framework we end up with, there is a clear designation of how the Region will give their impact and feedback to a state entity. Some of what this conversation prompts is, we do want to work with the state agency and have to have some state counterpart. The state is not creating a state counterpoint, but state agencies are working with them now.
- Earl Matherne: I was under the impression that there was meetings between the agencies that do watershed work now to form a new coordination group so that we can stop all the redundancies. If they are doing that, I was under the impression we would all work under one entity and that was who the agencies would be reporting to.
- Russell Kelly Sr:



- Evelyn Campo: The watershed council exists and is comprised of five agencies who are forming potential governance structures.
- Earl Matherne: That's what I was describing. I was picturing answering to the council as a point of authority.
- Dietmar Rietschier: How would you consider the Amite River Basin Commission? How would it fit into the charter?
- Rachele Sanderson: This is a provisional governance recommendation. Moving on, we will figure this out later.
- Becky Bond: When is this being taken to the legislature?
- Evelyn Campo: The document we are working on now is not a bill, but if this region among others decides to pursue a track where they would need state legislation to enable their coalition, then the eventual outcome may potentially be within the 2022 section.

Question 2:

- How consistent should the regions be in their charters? **Zoom poll screen capture found below**
 - A. All of the watershed bodies in the state should be authorized by a single charter – 64%
 - B. Each region should be considered separately and be independently chartered – 36%



- Evelyn Campo: Some regions have said clearly that they want a framework at least where these coalitions are enabled together. I think that is an important point of unity for some regions. That is what is implied in A. It speaks to that buffet approach. B is more of each coalition is their own piece of business and would be independently chartered.
- Thomas Douthat: There are benefits of doing things uniformly. There is less possibility for inconsistency, but there are different issues and existing institutions that they are dealing with. Question is, how do you bundle some of the larger issues arounds hazards and flooding and manage them in more beneficial ways?
- Earl Matherne: The context about wanting to do their own .. can from split watersheds. It makes dealing with the charters a little easier so at least the authorizing legislation is the same.



DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

The work of Region 7

- Region 7 Collaborative
- Planning & Development Guidance
- Data & Modeling
- Outreach & Engagement

Provisional Gov. Recommendation

- Authorities

Roadmap

- Top 2 bullet points in “How” section was changed.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation: Ross Liner: I make a motion to adopt Region 7’s provisional governance recommendation with the understanding that the results of today’s meeting with regards to the chartering of the watershed body and consistency with other regional watershed bodies is reflected.

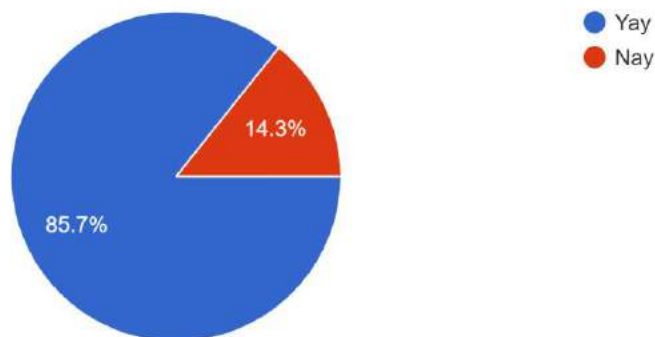
Chuck Berger seconded

Passed: 12 yay, 2 nay

Motioned passed, Ross Liner

How do you vote to the motion

14 responses



PUBLIC COMMENT + REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

Russell Kelly Sr: This is not an easy process and y’all are doing a great job at it. Consider me a resource going forward.



Ross Liner: Whatever we can do to get you on as a ‘yes’ moving forward, let’s make this full consensus and work together to come up with a solution.

Chuck Berger: If we look good its because of Rachele, Evelyn, Kim, and their team behind the scenes. The success of this group is based on everyone on this call. Can call me if you have any questions or want to talk this out.

Rachele: If something is a hard stop for somebody, we want to know what is going to get this individual to ‘I can live with this’ or ‘this really works for me.’

Request for feedback on our board:

https://jamboard.google.com/d/1EzI7u1pwOsTj6AnQXdO2sUd6Qsk7lytkRa4JdZ_fs_M/edit?usp=sharing.

- Feedback received as of February 1, 2021
 - Pluses (things to continue doing): “Rachel did a great job as always!”
 - Deltas (things to improve): “I think it would be helpful to decide whether the body will have power to make decisions or serves only in an advisory capacity before deciding on the necessary charter and/or who is on the body.”

MEETING CLOSEOUT

Upcoming meeting February 25, 2021 from 1 to 3:30pm. More information, including a link to register, will be available online at <https://crpcla.org/get-involved-upcoming-events> two weeks prior to the meeting.

ADOPTION OF JANUARY 7 MEETING MINUTES

Ross Liner called for motion

Ronny Carter motioned

Earl Matherne seconded

No objections, motion passed

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ross Liner called for motion

Bridget Bailey motioned

Devin Foil seconded

No objections, motion passed

RESOURCES SHARED DURING THE MEETING

- EO 2018-16: <https://www.doa.la.gov/osr/other/JBE%202018/JBE18-16.html>
- Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54cbd54fe4b047a0380cae54/t/5f8846c923173127aa9b64fd/1602766539187/Guiding+Principles+Framework+Updated+10132020.pdf>



- A place to provide feedback via Google JamBoard for all meeting participants:
https://jamboard.google.com/d/1EZI7u1pwOsTj6AnQXdO2sUd6Qsk7lytkRa4JdZ_fs_M/edit?usp=sharing
- NASA Earth Observatory: <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/147739/reshaping-coastal-louisiana>
- **Draft** provisional governance recommendation (please note that there is a later version of this that incorporates changes from this meeting that will be added to the website. This is NOT the final document):
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54cbd54fe4b047a0380cae54/t/6006d783bbe04a3784f7aac0/1611061124098/DRAFTRegion+7+Provisional+Governance+Recommendation+01152021.pdf>

MEETING CHAT

00:59:50Earl Matherne: Earl Matherne, St. Charles Parish
00:59:54Chris Shalohm: yep
01:00:04Lindsey Lamana: Lindsey Lamana, LSU
01:00:16Honora Buras: Honora Buras, CPRA
01:00:20Drew Ratcliff: Drew Ratcliff, CRPC
01:00:23Heidi Stewart: Heidi Stewart, Region 1
01:00:23binh dao: Binh Dao, LDEQ
01:00:32Chuck Berger: Chuck Berger, LDEQ
01:00:35Kelia Bingham: Kelia Bingham - LWI Region 5 - APC - Lafayette
01:00:36Gary Mego: Gary Mego, West Feliciana Parish
01:00:37Steve Kistler: this is Steve Kistler from Livingston Parish
01:00:37kim marousek: Kim Marousek, CRPC
01:01:33Evelyn Campo: Evelyn Campo, OCD - please feel free to reach out to me if you're having zoom issues
01:02:16Larry Bankston: Larry Bankston, Attorney for ARBC
01:02:48Michael Enlow: Mike Enlow - Ascension Parish Government - Good Afternoon everyone
01:03:13Devin Foil: Devin A. Foil, St. John the Baptist Parish Govt
01:03:20Bobbi Jo Breland: Bobbi Jo Breland
01:03:28Bobbi Jo Breland: Washington Parish
01:05:24Major Coleman: Major is hear
01:05:38Bridget Bailey: Bridget Bailey is here too
01:07:00Kelia Bingham: Love the icebreaker poll
01:11:54Ann Guissinger: Ann Guissinger, OCD - LWI
01:25:45Rachelle "Ray-chel" (she/her):
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54cbd54fe4b047a0380cae54/t/6006d783bbe04a3784f7aac0/1611061124098/DRAFTRegion+7+Provisional+Governance+Recommendation+01152021.pdf>
01:25:54Nate Dronette: thank you
01:53:38Russell Kelly Sr: May come in handy at some points:
<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/147739/reshaping-coastal-louisiana>



01:59:53Rachelle "Ray-chel" (she/her):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54cbd54fe4b047a0380cae54/t/6006d783bbe04a3784f7aac0/1611061124098/DRAFTRegion+7+Provisional+Governance+Recommendation+01152021.pdf>

02:10:41Larry Bankston: The Project Implementation is too broad. "Review and provide technical assistance." The word "Review" implies a subject to approval.

02:11:37Larry Bankston: I agree with your point.

02:13:40Ren Clark: If the 'minimum' is not a regulation, couldn't it be ignored?

02:14:18Larry Bankston: A state standard of what? minimum elevation?

02:16:08Larry Bankston: How can you have a development standard for Union parish the same as Orleans? That simply cannot work.

02:16:41Bridget Bailey: I suggest bullet #3 to read -

02:17:46Gary Mego: Doesn't everyone who participates in NFIP have to meet minimum development standards?

02:18:11Becky Bond: Is this document going to be taken to the legislature, in any form, to memorialize & formalize this body? And if so, does everyone on here realize that they are signing off on decisions that really need to be made by elected officials - who are the people that are held accountable for results by the people of the state?

02:18:31Bridget Bailey: For Bullet #3 - Region will provide "recommended" development standards based on local environmental risk factors.

02:23:52Larry Bankston: The question is whether we can have standards would be the same for the seven HUC's being the same?

02:27:22Ren Clark: My experience with town govt. is that an offer of free, 'expert guidance' would rarely be dismissed. Might not be followed or turned into regulatory outcomes but free technical advice is rarely passed up.

02:31:33Romy LaCour: I agree that a minimum standard is different for various situations, and general guidelines will always miss the mark. Maybe it would be good enough to state a few basic /sets/ of guidelines and things to consider that local bodies could pick and mix.

02:32:11Russell Kelly Sr: Reads good but data input MUST be accurate which can be a challenge at times.

02:32:34Romy LaCour: And financial means

02:35:20Bridget Bailey: I agree

02:35:31Steve Kistler: review for comment and suggestion

02:35:35Russell Kelly Sr: These models are known to be less than needed in areas such as where drainage basin reservoirs fill/partially fill with groundwater. And of course old outdated standards..

02:35:36Alex Sumrall: agree

02:36:19Earl Matherne: maybe review for up and downstream effects?

02:37:01Becky Bond: Why not replace review with analyze?

02:37:56Ross Liner: Yeah that may work

02:40:24Larry Bankston: Regardless, either has to be by a legislative act.

02:41:26Rachelle "Ray-chel" (she/her): I will stop screen sharing for just a moment to share our edits to the document with Kim

02:44:37Larry Bankston: What have the other regions suggest?

02:45:21Russell Kelly Sr: A complaint I have had from some with the Pontchartrain Levee District is lack of coordination and cooperation from city/parish entities across multiple parishes. Relationships need defining.



02:48:23Larry Bankston: There was legislation introduced in 2020 by Fred Mills but never moved because of Covid. SB 167. It was a statewide statute.

02:53:20Becky Bond: when is this being taken to the legislature?

02:54:37Rachelle "Ray-chel" (she/her): We will close the meeting in approximately 10 seconds

02:55:47Becky Bond: when will the council take their outcome to the legislature? and will their decisions be presented to the regions prior to seeking to establish laws?

02:56:29Rachelle "Ray-chel" (she/her): Evelyn is correct! Apologies, y'all! It was indeed for the poll and not the meeting. We are here until 330

03:02:05Larry Bankston: How many members are present and voting?

03:18:18Romy LaCour: Sorry, what is this motion?


03:21:10Ross Liner: I make a motion to adopt Region 7's provisional governance recommendation with the understanding that the results of today's meeting with regards to the chartering of the watershed body and consistency with other regional watershed bodies is reflected.

03:21:32Ross Liner: Second by Chuck

03:22:02Rachelle "Ray-chel" (she/her): For pluses & deltas:

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DRAFT



LWI Region 7 Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting

JANUARY 28, 2020

RACHELLE SANDERSON, CRPC

KIM MAROUSEK, CRPC

EVELYN CAMPO, OCD

DR. THOMAS DOUTHAT, LSU

LINDSEY LAMANA, LSU

KELIA BINGHAM, APC

PAT GORDAN, SCPDC

TOM HAYSLEY, NORPC



LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

working together for sustainability and resilience



AGENDA

1. Introductions and meeting logistics
2. Where we've been
3. Provisional governance recommendation
4. Moving forward
5. Public comment
6. Closeout





1. Introductions and meeting logistics



Regional Steering Committee Meetings

- Will adhere to Louisiana Open Meetings requirements:
- Observable to the public
- Provide opportunity for public comments
- Opportunity to increase public's trust and awareness of the work of the RSC
- Importance of transparency and decision-tracking
- 24-hour advance notice of the meeting
- Allow for recording of the meeting by the audience
- Record minutes of the proceedings for public record



Roll Call and Notes

Roll Call: Please let us know if you are an alternate member

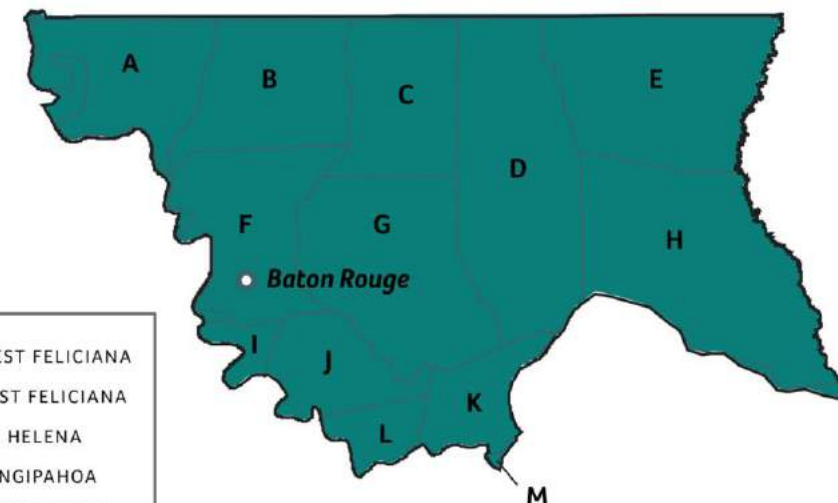
This is a public meeting:

- The meeting is being recorded and will be posted for public viewing
 - All comments made in the “chat pod” are written public comments
 - Comments from the steering committee can be made throughout the presentations
 - There is a specific time for public comments at the end of the meeting
-
- ❖ Please use your video camera during the meeting if possible
 - ❖ If anyone is having technical difficulties, please place a message in the chat pod

Region 7 goals

Region 7 Goals from [Guiding Principles Framework](#)

- Equitable flood risk reduction (climate and environmental equity)
- Address urban/rural split and resource disparity
- Upstream/downstream coordination
- Identify funding sources (short and long-term)
- Regional planning efforts and the development of a comprehensive strategy that is beyond political terms
- Understand, anticipate, and incorporate the impacts of migration and population shifts due to acute (flood events) and chronic (land loss and rising seas) disasters within our strategies
- *Goals are also broken down into policy and planning, projects and programs, and data collection and management.



- A – WEST FELICIANA
- B – EAST FELICIANA
- C – ST. HELENA
- D – TANGIPAHOA
- E – WASHINGTON
- F – EAST BATON ROUGE
- G – LIVINGSTON
- H – ST. TAMMANY
- I – IBERVILLE
- J – ASCENSION
- K – ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
- L – ST. JAMES
- M – ST. CHARLES

REGION 7



RSC deliverables

Regional Steering Committee Deliverables

- Develop long-term governance structure. Provisional recommendation due January 31, 2021
- Identify projects to recommend for funding due July 2021 **subject to change**



Thank you & a quick icebreaker

- For your being here and for your thought leadership

Icebreaker poll:

- Would you rather
 - Eat your favorite meal everyday for the rest of your life
 - Eat a different meal everyday for the rest of your life



Ground rules

These are “rules of engagement” for how we will be interacting with one another.

We will aspire to:

1. **Be brief and meaningful when voicing your opinion**
2. **Seek common ground and understanding (not problems and conflict)**
3. **Consider what serves the benefit of the entire region**
4. **When presenting a challenge, offer a solution**



Incorporating a new practice

We will be adding the concept of an “idea marina” to our discussions.

This means when a discussion comes up that is not related to the goals of the meeting, we’ll put it in the idea marina to revisit at a later date.



Reminders from previous conversations

Mission & Vision

- **LWI Mission:**

- Reduce flood risk, improve floodplain management throughout the state and maximize the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains

- **Region 7 Vision:**

- Region 7 envisions a future with less flood risk, healthier natural environments, and resilience practices that are responsive to the needs of our communities and to our evolving environment.



Introductions



NAME	AFFILIATION
Mike Enlow and/or Ron Savoy	Ascension Parish
Tom Stephens and/or Fred Raiford	East Baton Rouge Parish
James Stewart and/or Joni Stone	East Feliciana
John Clark	Iberville Parish
Mark Harrell and/or Steve Kistler	Livingston Parish
Earl Matherne and/or Stephanie Bruning	St. Charles Parish
Major Coleman and/or Jeremy Williams	St. Helena Parish
Ryan Donadieu and/or Ryan Larousse	St. James Parish
Devin Foil and/or Rene Pastorek	St. John the Baptist Parish
Ross Liner and/or Jay Watson	St. Tammany Parish
Bridget Bailey and/or Melissa Cowart	Tangipahoa Parish
Bobbi Jo Breland and/or Alex Sumrall	Washington Parish
Gary Mego and/or Emily Cobb	West Feliciana Parish
Dietmar Rietschier and/or Larry Bankston	Amite River Basin Commission
Karen Zito and/or Diane Baum	Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge
Chuck Berger and/or John Sheehan, Binh Dao	Department of Environmental Quality
Ronny Carter and/or Kim Coates	Pontchartrain Conservancy and Tangipahoa Parish Council





2. Where we've been



A quick recap...



August 19, 2020 → creating a vision, values, and goals for this region



September 23, 2020 → identifying root causes that we could impact and transforming challenges into opportunities and then into actions



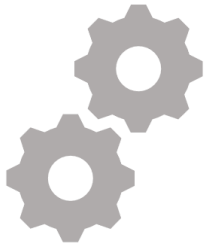
October 13, 2020 → Region 7 boundaries discussion... unless there's a significant reason to do so, don't change them.



A quick recap...



November 2, 2020 → funding discussion... we want to fund projects, programs, and planning efforts and we also want the ability to obtain external funding resources and to have long-term stable funding resources



November 19, 2020 → Discussing potential functions... we want to provide technical assistance for projects, planning, models, and more; provide guidance and coordination; provide opportunities for outreach and education among other things



December 15, 2020 → Governance models... we want there to be space for technical experts, elected officials, and everyday citizens to have roles and it is important that we create something that is strong but adaptive



A quick recap...



January 7, 2021 → moving towards a provisional governance recommendation... we discussed what would be included in the regional summary and road map sections of the document



Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16, Goals

SECTION 3: The goals of this Council include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Promoting a unified effort, built on a solid foundation of scientific and engineering principles, to address flooding issues across the state.
- B. Identifying and working with or seeking input from additional local, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders including, but not limited to, The Water Institute of the Gulf (TWIG) and other not-for-profit research institutions, the Louisiana State University Center for River Studies (LSU CRS) and other university research institutions, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and other state agencies, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other federal agencies, drainage or levee boards and other local districts, and private sector experts to develop, implement, and evaluate the necessary components of a Louisiana Watershed-based Floodplain Management Program.
- C. Expanding, developing and using in-state skill, knowledge, technology and talent to develop and implement the program, promoting Louisiana resources through collaboration, communication, and cooperation among governmental, non-governmental, for-profit, non-profit and university entities.
- D. Increasing state and local resilience to flooding by working to improve response to flooding and reduce the instances, damages, and amount of time needed to recover from flooding.
- E. Creating a path for the state and its various jurisdictions and political subdivisions to coordinate at a statewide and watershed level to maximize flood risk reduction in coordination with the natural and beneficial functions of the watershed and its floodplains, and to consistently manage floodplains using contextually appropriate best practices.
- F. Working within the interdependencies of our communities, infrastructure, political jurisdictions and natural environment to increase Louisiana's resilience and its ability to adapt and thrive.
- G. Promoting actions, including legislative, administrative, and regulatory, where appropriate, to enhance watershed and floodplain management in Louisiana.
- H. Identifying, prioritizing, acquiring and establishing funding mechanisms to enhance the Louisiana Watershed-based Floodplain Management Program.
- I. Facilitating watershed-based floodplain management by working to create watershed-bounded entities across the state.
- J. Developing an approach to watershed-based floodplain management that is recognized as a model for others nationally and internationally.



Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16, Goals

SECTION 3: The goals of this Council include, but are not limited to, the following:

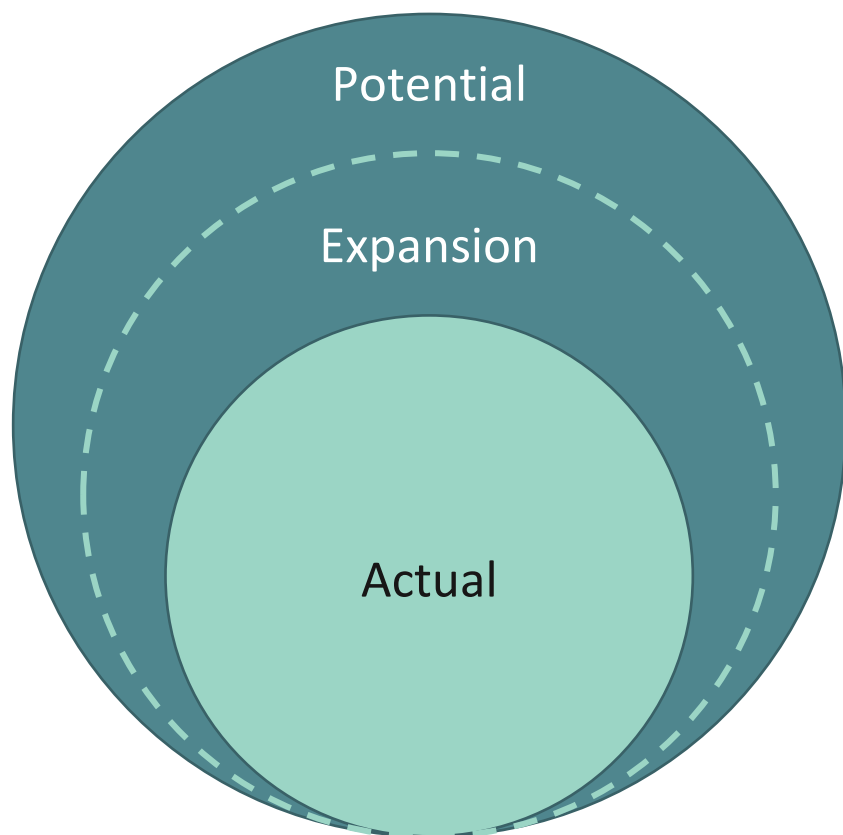
- A. Promoting a unified effort, built on a solid foundation of scientific and engineering principles, to address flooding issues across the state.
- B. Identifying and working with or seeking input from additional local, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders including, but not limited to, The Water Institute of the Gulf (TWIG) and other not-for-profit research institutions, the Louisiana State University Center for River Studies (LSU CRS) and other university research institutions, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and other state agencies, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other federal agencies, drainage district boards and other local district and private sector experts to develop, implement, and evaluate the necessary components of a Louisiana Watershed-based Floodplain Management Program.
- C. Expanding, developing and using in-state skill, knowledge, technology and talent to develop and implement the program, promoting Louisiana resources through collaboration, communication, and cooperation among governmental, non-governmental, for-profit, non-profit and university entities.
- D. Increasing state and local resilience to flooding by working to improve response to flooding and reduce the instances, damages, and amount of time needed to recover from flooding.
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- F. Working within the interdependencies of our communities, infrastructure, political jurisdictions and natural environment to increase Louisiana's resilience and its ability to adapt and thrive.
- G. Promoting actions, including legislative, administrative, and regulatory, where appropriate, to enhance watershed-based floodplain management in Louisiana.
- H. Identifying, prioritizing, acquiring and establishing funding mechanisms to enhance the Louisiana Watershed-based Floodplain Management Program.
- I. Promoting watershed-based floodplain management by working to create watershed-based entities across the state.
- J. Developing an approach to watershed-based floodplain management that is recognized as a model for others nationally and internationally.

More than \$1.2B CDBG-MIT Investment



Potential versus actual authority

NO ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL SOLUTION FOR WATERSHED REGIONS



OPTION:

- Regions may or may not choose to use all the authorities enabled as a result of this process.
- A framework of enabled, potential authorities can allow regions to adopt more authority as they see fit.

Next steps, provisional gov. recs.

Regions

November – January

Provisional recommendations

January – April

Outreach and engagement

May – June

Revisit and refine
recommendations

State

November – January

Operational guidance

January – April

Options to align with regional recommendations considered

May – June



3. Provisional governance recommendation



Today's meeting process

Three steps for this section



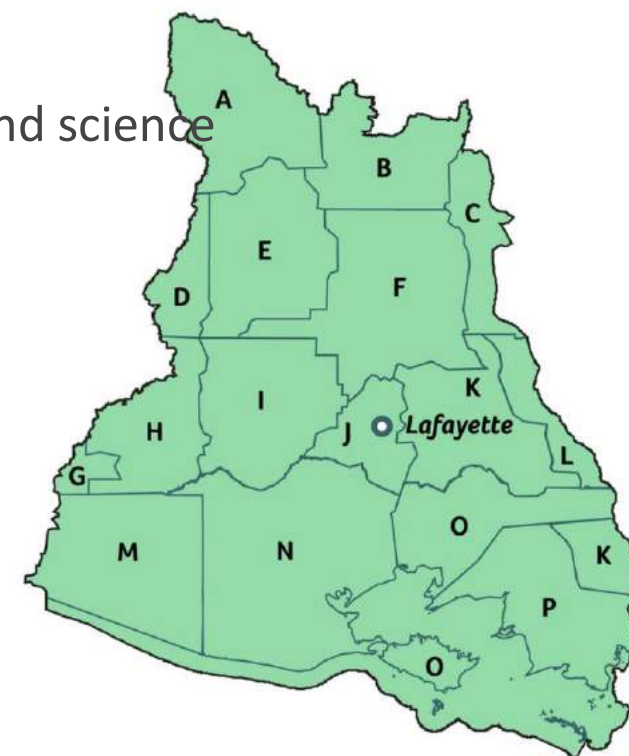
In the bottom left-hand corner, you will see a colored dot with the number indicating which step we are on



What other regions are considering

Region 5

- Coalition Tasks
 - Watershed/Hazard Mitigation Plan; Policies based on data and science
 - Develop regional CRS streamline strategy (user group)
 - Regional watershed-based permit and permitting process
 - Coordinate local drainage districts to plan/fund projects
 - Assist in funding long term O&M of existing projects
 - Operate and maintain a regional gauge network
- Recommended Authorities
 - Cooperate/contract with other gov agencies
 - Generate revenue
 - Oversee regional planning processes
 - Issue permits



A	- RAPIDES
B	- AVOYELLES
C	- POINTE COUPEE
D	- ALLEN
E	- EVANGELINE
F	- ST. LANDRY
G	- CALCASIEU
H	- JEFFERSON DAVIS
I	- ACADIA
J	- LAFAYETTE
K	- ST. MARTIN
L	- IBERVILLE
M	- CAMERON
N	- VERMILION
O	- IBERIA
P	- ST. MARY

REGION 5

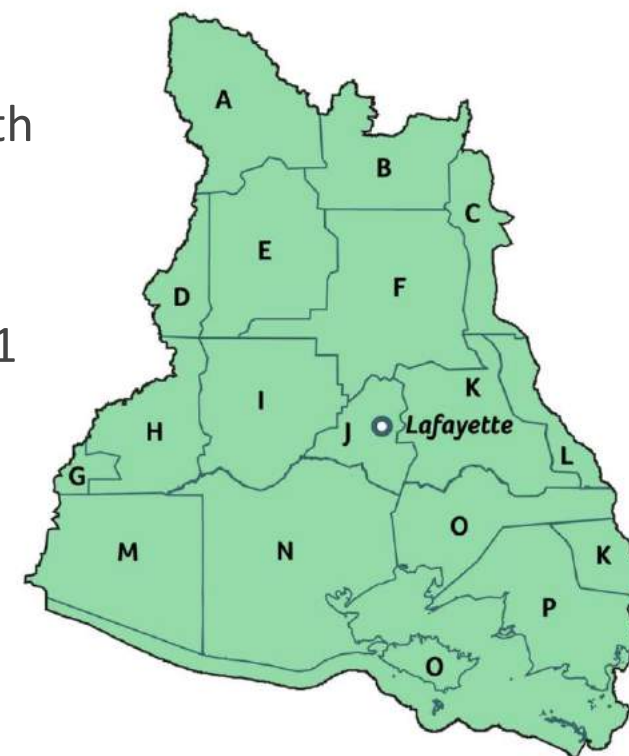


What other regions are considering

Region 5

- Roadmap

- Coalition - APC Staff (agency) will establish “agreements” with University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District
- Coalition Representation – Landmass based management (11 Parishes) and planning (5 parishes) Districts
- Coalition to be made up of public representatives with a District Committee and Technical Subcommittees
- Boundaries to remain the same – may change with funding source



A	– RAPIDES
B	– AVOUELLES
C	– POINTE COUPEE
D	– ALLEN
E	– EVANGELINE
F	– ST. LANDRY
G	– CALCASIEU
H	– JEFFERSON DAVIS
I	– ACADIA
J	– LAFAYETTE
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P	– ST. MARY

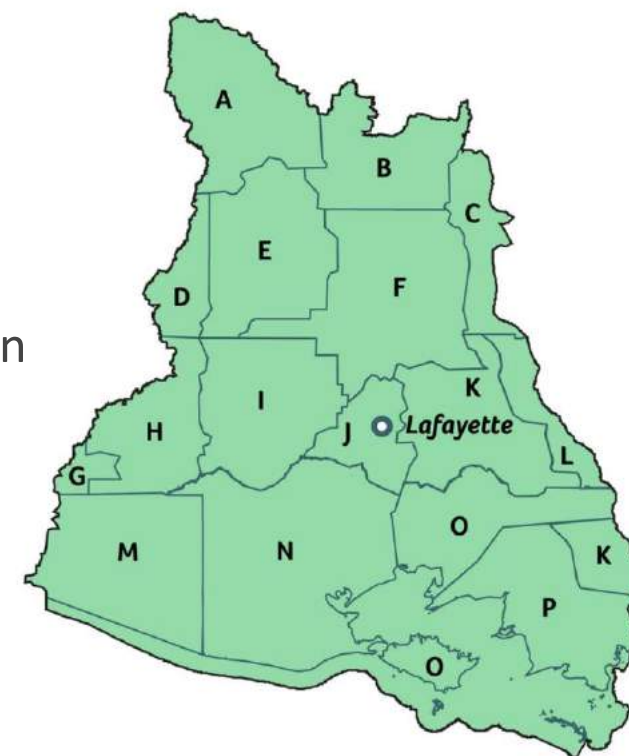
REGION 5



What other regions are considering

Region 5

- State Recommendations
 - State enabled authority - legislation and fiscal authority with general oversight
 - Increased authority to develop minimum standards set by the state for all regions (e.g., regional watershed construction permit)



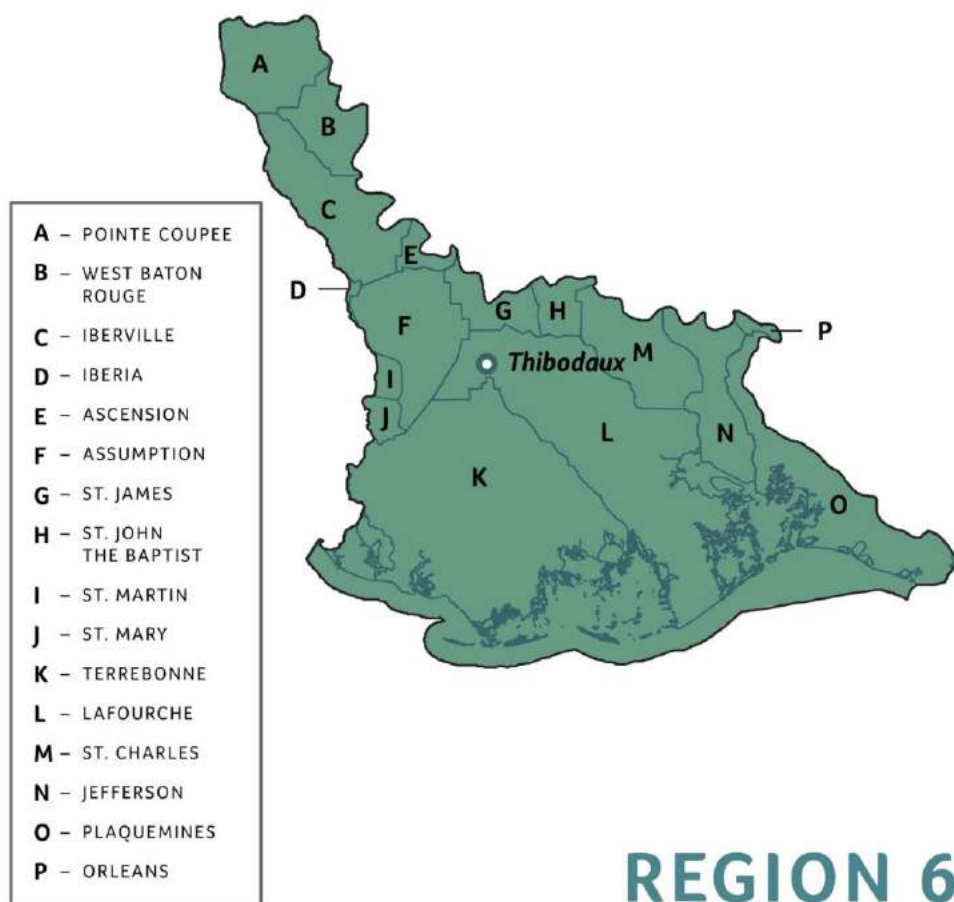
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REGION 5

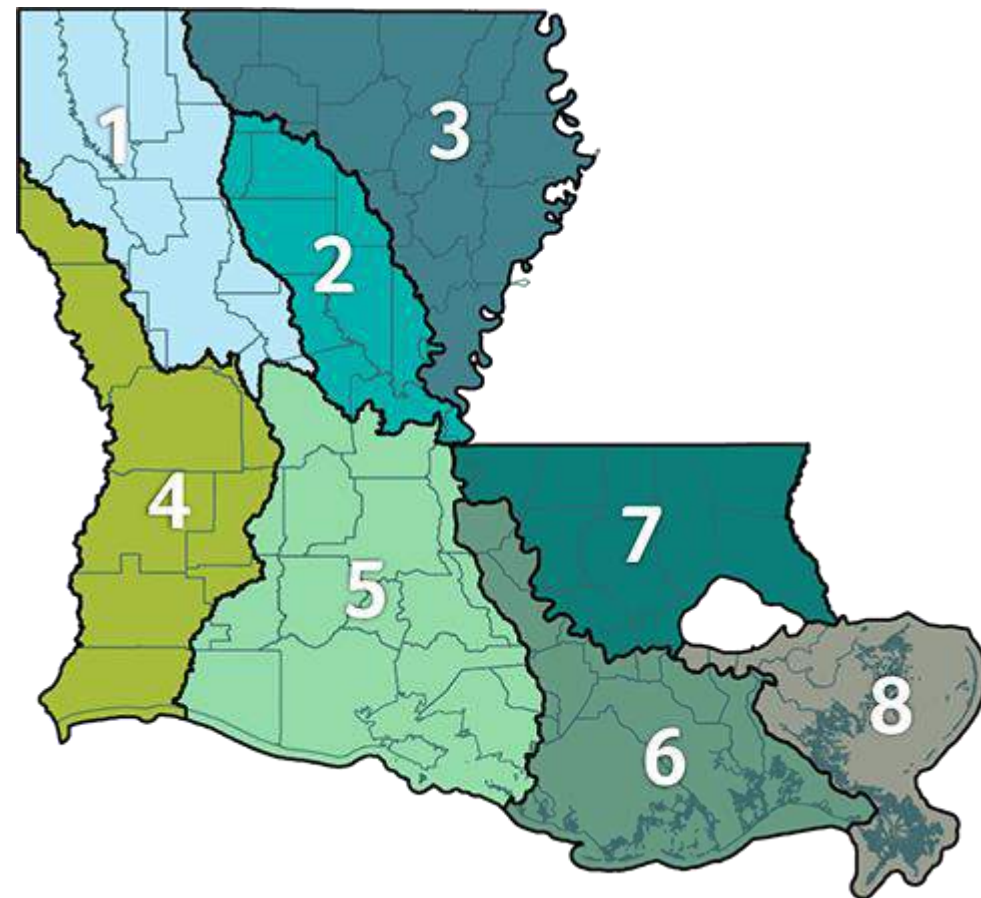


What other regions are considering

Region 6



REGION 6



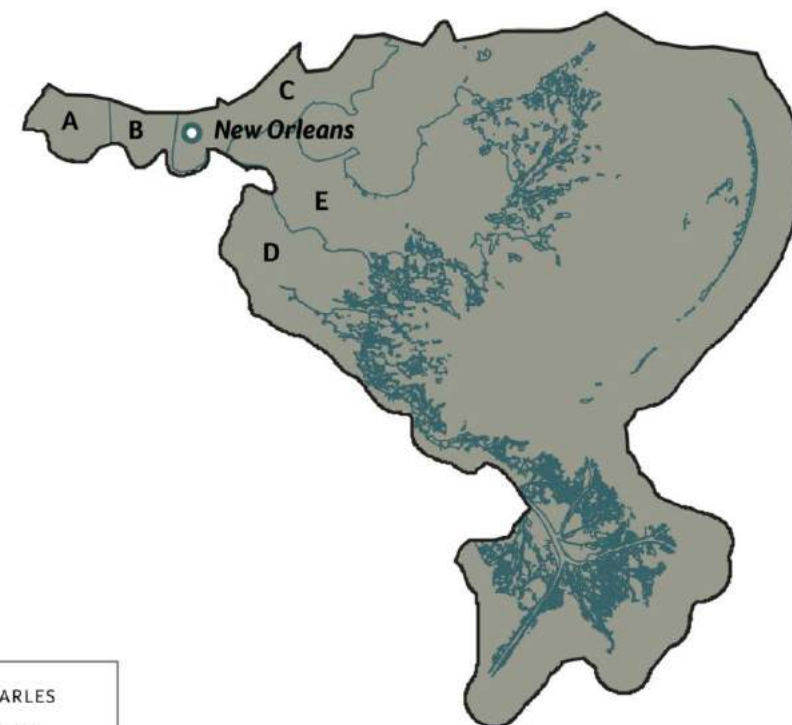
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What other regions are considering

Region 8

- Coalition Tasks:
 - Planning: Regional & sub-area; Multi-faceted; Replicable
 - Implementation: Mainly funding & project development
 - Data: Housing, capacity building, education
 - Outreach: Public, elected, industry, state and fed. liaison
- Required Authorities: Receive & distribute funds; Act on behalf of local entities; State and local approval
- Roadmap: Partnership model; State charter with regional self-determination
- Recommendations for State: Strategy; Recognizing constraints; Contingency plans



- A - ST. CHARLES
- B - JEFFERSON
- C - ORLEANS
- D - PLAQUEMINES
- E - ST. BERNARD

REGION 8

1



A few changes in language

To better reflect January 7 discussions

- The use of “Region 7 Watershed Body” instead of Council/Commission/Committee/Coalition
- Regional summary
 - Planning and Development Regulation
 - Previous text: Provide **oversight for** regional planning processes
 - Updated text: Provide **guidance and coordination** regional planning processes
 - Previous text: Region should not issue development standards, but the state should adopt minimum development standards
 - Updated text: Region should not administer development standards, but the state should adopt minimum development standards **based on local environmental, planning, and risk factors**
 - Recommended authorities
 - Addition: Authority to receive, manage, and distribute funds from governmental, private, or non-profit sources, including the authority to set policy on how funds will be distributed.

1



Comments received prior to the meeting

To reflect comments received ahead of this meeting

- Note about the goals from the Guiding Principles Framework
- Three buckets of detail
 - (1) Detailed feedback that is better suited for later iterations of the governance recommendation and/or other supporting documents (revamp of guiding principles framework, bylaws, decision-making matrices/processes, etc.)
 - (2) Feedback that has been incorporated and will be shown today
 - (3) Feedback that needs to be discussed today



Comments received prior to the meeting

Feedback to consider at a later date

- Projects:
 - Consider project review with the option for neighboring parishes to give a thumbs up/down on projects that may impact them
 - Consider having RSC be the project recommending body to agencies so it's one point of contact to do approval, etc.
 - Page 3 under Project Implementation, 5th bullet: Modify to say “Projects that improve the natural functions of the river channels and their floodplains.”
- Authority to cooperate/contract with other governmental agencies
 - Consider that this may add hiccups and that organizing the governance structure to be like the safety coalitions may be most effective. Where the coalition is staffed by an entity and that entity receives funds from an agency to do the work. May also be the recipient/pass through of grant funds. Also consider that it is necessary to prove good financial standing prior to receiving federal funds, advantage to having planning commissions to this work.

1



Comments received prior to the meeting

Feedback to consider at a later date

- Representation
 - Agrees with what is written and context is also important. Having too many parish officials as decision-makers in this process is likely not the best way to achieve the goals of LWI and Region 7. California Water Boards for Water Quality's boards are made up of technical experts who are not affiliated with government and they have been successful
- Planning and Development Regulation
 - No mention of economic factors/impact weighed into decisions.
 - Economic impacts and feasibility are always weighted as a mitigating factor in all environmental scenarios is required on a state and federal level and is a part of permit applications.
- Data and Modeling
 - Page 3 under Data and Modeling, 1st bullet: Another primary data set is LIDAR (elevation) data.



Comments received prior to the meeting

Incorporated feedback

Existing Language	→	Recommended Change
Planning and Development Regulation (page 2)	→	Planning and Development Guidance
Project Implementation (Page 3)	→	Support for Projects
Define PDDs and MPOs (Page 1)	→	Planning and Development Districts and Metropolitan Planning Organizations
Reservoirs (page 3 under project section) Comment : reservoirs can have a negative impact to stream channels. It depends on how they are operated.	→	Remove reservoirs
Regional planning efforts and the development of a comprehensive strategy that is beyond political terms	→	Regional planning efforts and the development of a comprehensive strategy that extends beyond individual political terms



Comments received prior to the meeting

For discussion

For discussion	Recommended Change
<p>Page 2 under Regional Summary, Planning and Development Regulation: add reference to the fact that the region may adopt more stringent standards if justified, based on regional characteristics</p>	
<p>Page 3 under Data and Modeling, 2nd bullet: understanding is that the initial models will be just base models and not set up to evaluate future scenarios.</p>	

1



How should the Region 7 Watershed Body be chartered?

QUESTION 1

- A. Legislatively via a state commission, board, or agency
- B. The Region 7 Watershed Body should be locally in accordance with the state charter

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- B. The Region 7 Watershed Body should be locally in accordance with the state charter

BUT WAIT... LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT THESE OPTIONS MEAN

How should the Region 7 Watershed Body be chartered?

QUESTION 1

A. Legislatively via a state commission, board, or agency

An example... levee/drainage boards

How should the Region 7 Watershed Body be chartered?

QUESTION 1

B. The Region 7 Watershed Body should be locally in accordance with the state charter

An example... Planning and Development Districts

How should the Region 7 Watershed Body be chartered?

QUESTION 1

- A. Legislatively chartered via a state commission, board, or agency
- B. The Region 7 Watershed Body should be locally in accordance with the state charter

How consistent should the regions be in their charters?

QUESTION 2, OPTIONS WITH ONE OR FEWER VOTES 01/07/21 ARE NOT REFLECTED

- A. **All of the watershed bodies in the state should be authorized by a single charter** that includes a list of standards and authorities identified by all regions, wherein each region is able to choose which standard or authority to implement and at what degree within individual Region 7 Watershed Body bylaws/regional charters
- B. **Each region should be considered separately and be independently chartered.** Each charter should list the specific authorities and degrees of responsibility.

How consistent should the regions be in their charters?

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This means...

How consistent should the regions be in their charters?

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This means...

1

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Draft recommendation

The work of Region 7



REGION 7 COLLABORATIVE.

At the heart of it we are bringing together actors across the region because we know that by working together towards a shared vision and goals, we can maximize our impact and bring more resources to the region.



SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS

Review and/or provide technical assistance on major projects as deemed appropriate by the future bylaws of the Region 7 Watershed Body



DATA & MODELING.

Models should initially be housed at the state-level and over time with support, capacity should be built at the regional level

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT GUIDANCE

Provide technical assistance to local entities, who create floodplain management plans

State should adopt minimum development standards based on local environmental risk factors.

The region will provide "recommended" development standards based on local environmental risk factors.

Region should provide technical assistance to local entities regarding the impact of development standards



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Provide opportunities for watershed-related outreach and education

Long-term capacity building from the region to public entities and citizens

2

Provisional Gov. Rec.

Authorities

- Authority to review and/or provide technical assistance for regional projects
- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies
- Authority to oversee regional planning processes
- Authority to provide support for technical assistance related to outreach and education efforts and train the trainer programs
- Authority to receive, manage, and distribute funds from governmental, private, or non-profit sources, including the authority to set policy on how funds will be distributed.



Draft recommendation

Roadmap

WHO

- CRPC should facilitate meetings of the Region 7 Watershed Body and perform administrative functions related to the work of the coalition
- The Region 7 Watershed Body should be composed of a mix of technical experts, elected officials (or their appointees), and citizens/organizations outside of government entities who represent them
- The Region 7 Watershed Body should have oversight by a state agency

WHAT

- The Region 7 Watershed Body may have subcommittees or working groups relevant to areas of focus, geographic areas, jurisdictional representation, etc.
- The regional watershed boundaries should remain as is and be recognized/approved by a state agency/board/program

HOW

- The Region 7 Watershed Bodies across the state should be chartered via a state commission, board, or agency
- All watershed Region 7 Watershed Body in the state should be authorized by a single charter
- The Region 7 Watershed Body should have the ability to obtain external funding and maintain stable local funding
- The state should lead the effort to draft legal elements that reflect these recommendations
- State should adopt minimum development standards

Provisional Governance Recommendation

Vote

Vote to adopt Region 7 provisional governance recommendation

- We will ask primary RSC members (or their designated alternates), in alphabetical order by affiliation, to come off mute or to type their vote (yay/nay) into the chat pod
- Abstaining isn't an option today
- This is provisional and it's a milestone on the map, we're not done with the work
- Instructions on the next slide

3

REGION 7

PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

The Region 7 Steering Committee (RSC) hereby offers the provisional recommendation that a long-term Watershed Coalition be formed within the current boundaries of Region 7 as shown in Figure 1 below. In the Regional Capacity Grant Building Program Policies and Procedures¹, Watershed Coalition is defined as, "A watershed coalition is a formalized entity based on regional watershed boundaries. Coalitions could be composed of representatives from existing political subdivisions and other stakeholder organizations such as PDDs, MPOs, and/or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), among others." That document goes on to state... "as part of this Program and the LWI design process, coalitions will assume different governance structures for developing watershed management plans; aiding in the implementation of projects, programs and policies emanating from those plans; and improving the lives of residents and the success of businesses affected by those plans. Watershed coalitions are an expected outcome of the Initiative. These entities do not currently exist in the state of Louisiana."

Within the following text Region 7 Watershed Body will be used instead of Watershed Coalition. As the RSC continues to build out the future governance structure, it is important to recognize that the final governance structure could be a coalition, commission, council, committee, or perhaps another option that

best fulfills the implementation of potential responsibilities and authorities. These definitions can be found in the glossary. Note, that the name is not determinative and there is variation and overlap among the definitions. At this point, the priority is to explain the functions and scope that you envision for the organization. The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region 7 Steering Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

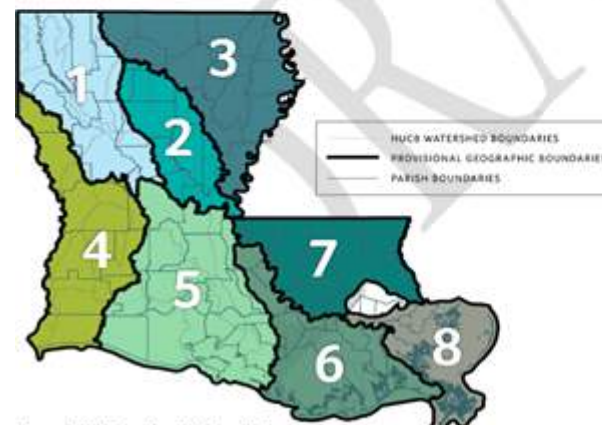


Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed

¹ <https://watershed.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/RCBG-Policies-and-Procedures-6-8-20.pdf>



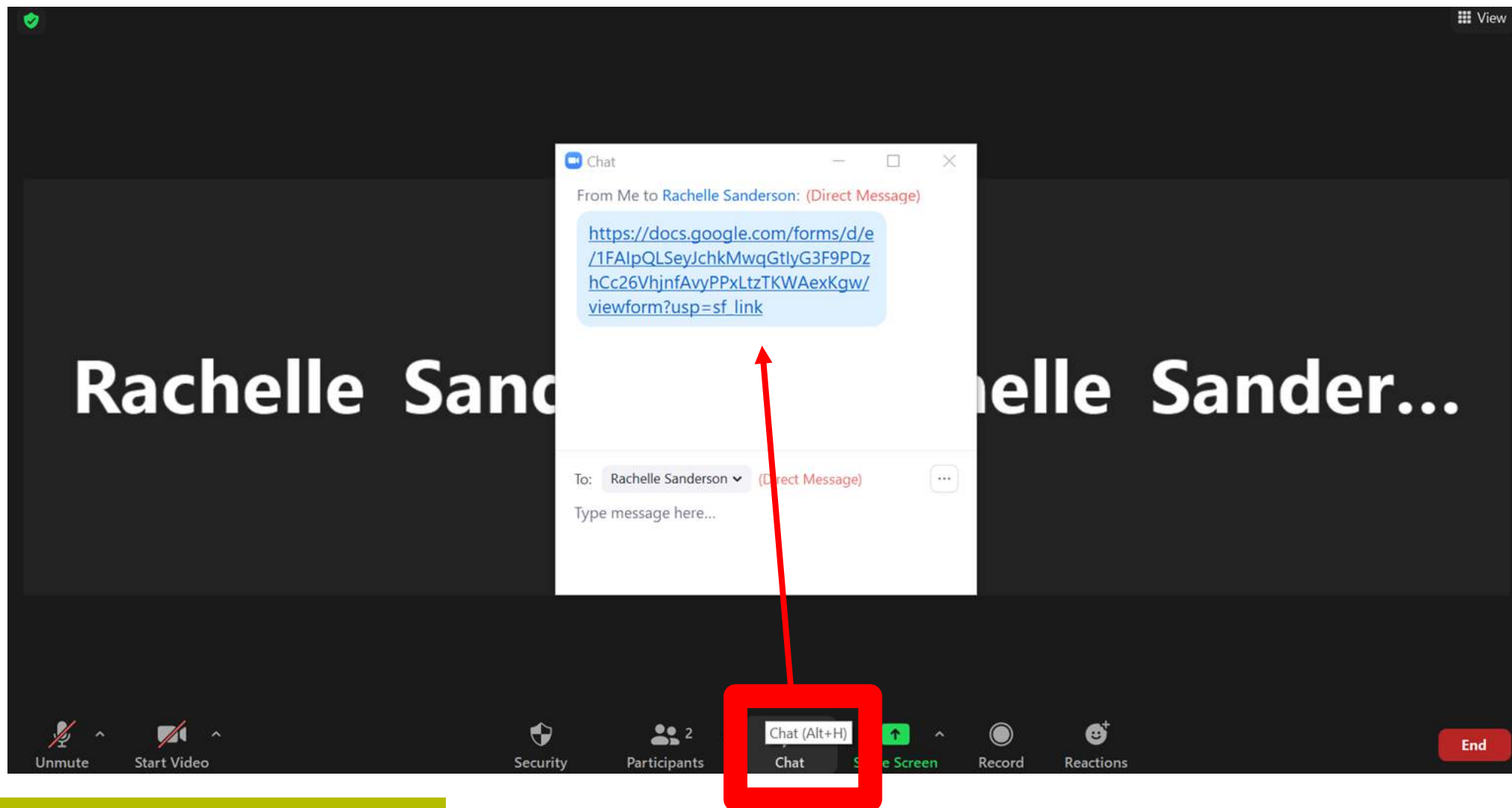
Voting

Instructions

1. Only one RSC member per affiliation can vote
2. The designated voting RSC member will receive a Google Forms link to vote in real-time via a
3. We will ask that each member includes their name to ensure that we do not have duplicative votes from the same affiliation
4. If you're on the phone without using the Zoom application, we will ask that you come off of mute
5. If you're having challenges accessing the direct message, you can put your answer in the chat pod or do a "voice vote"
6. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeyJchkMwqGtlyG3F9PDzhCc26VhjnfAvyPPxLtzTKWAexKgw/viewform?usp=sf_link



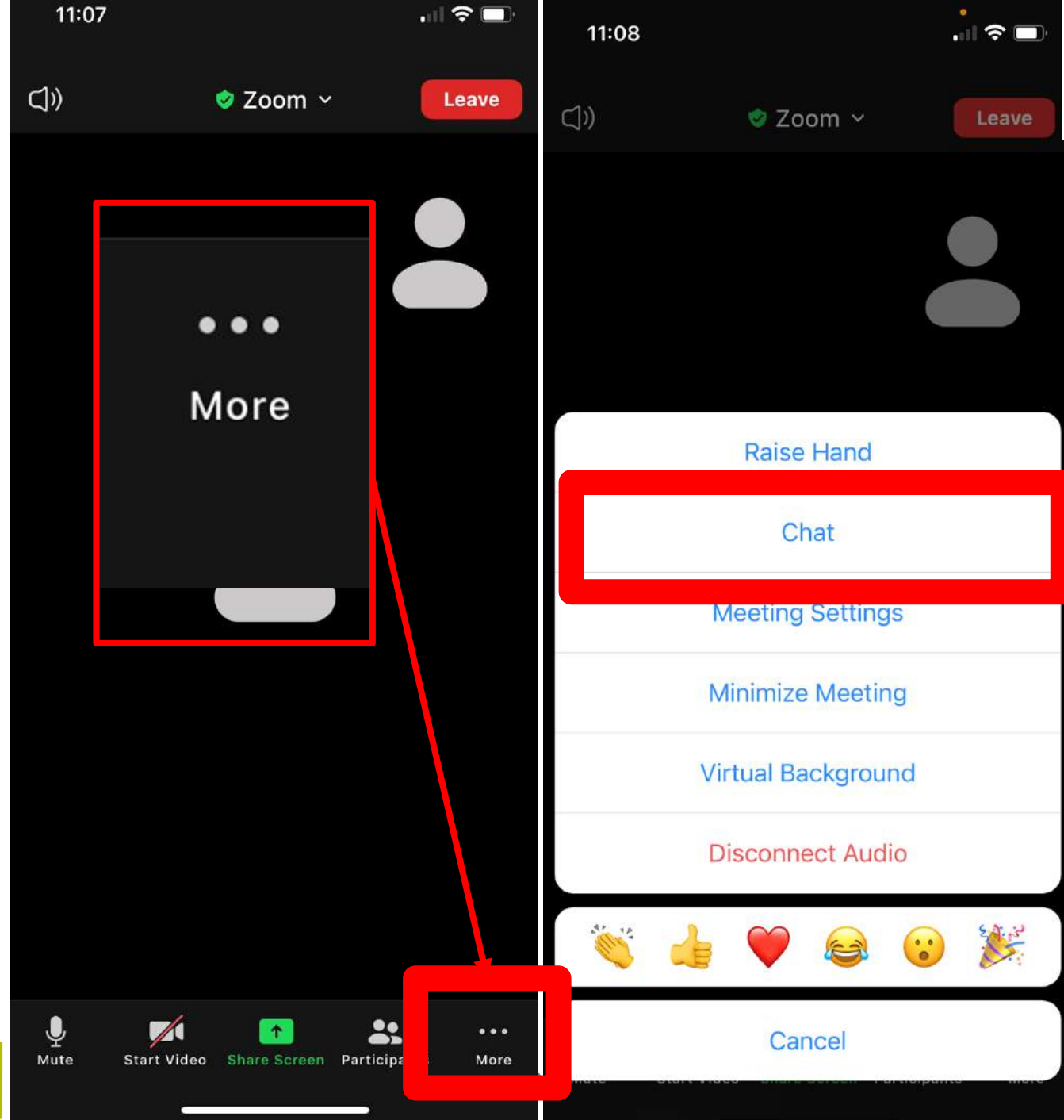
Voting, computer instructions



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. In the center, a chat window is open, displaying a direct message from the user to 'Rachelle Sanderson'. The message contains a Google Forms link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeyJchkMwqGtlyG3F9PDzhCc26VhjfAvyPPxLtzTKWAexKgw/viewform?usp=sf_link. A red arrow points from the 'Chat (Alt+H)' button in the Zoom control bar at the bottom to the chat window. The Zoom control bar includes buttons for Unmute, Start Video, Security, Participants (2), Chat (Alt+H), Share Screen, Record, Reactions, and End. The background of the meeting shows the name 'Rachelle Sanderson'.

3

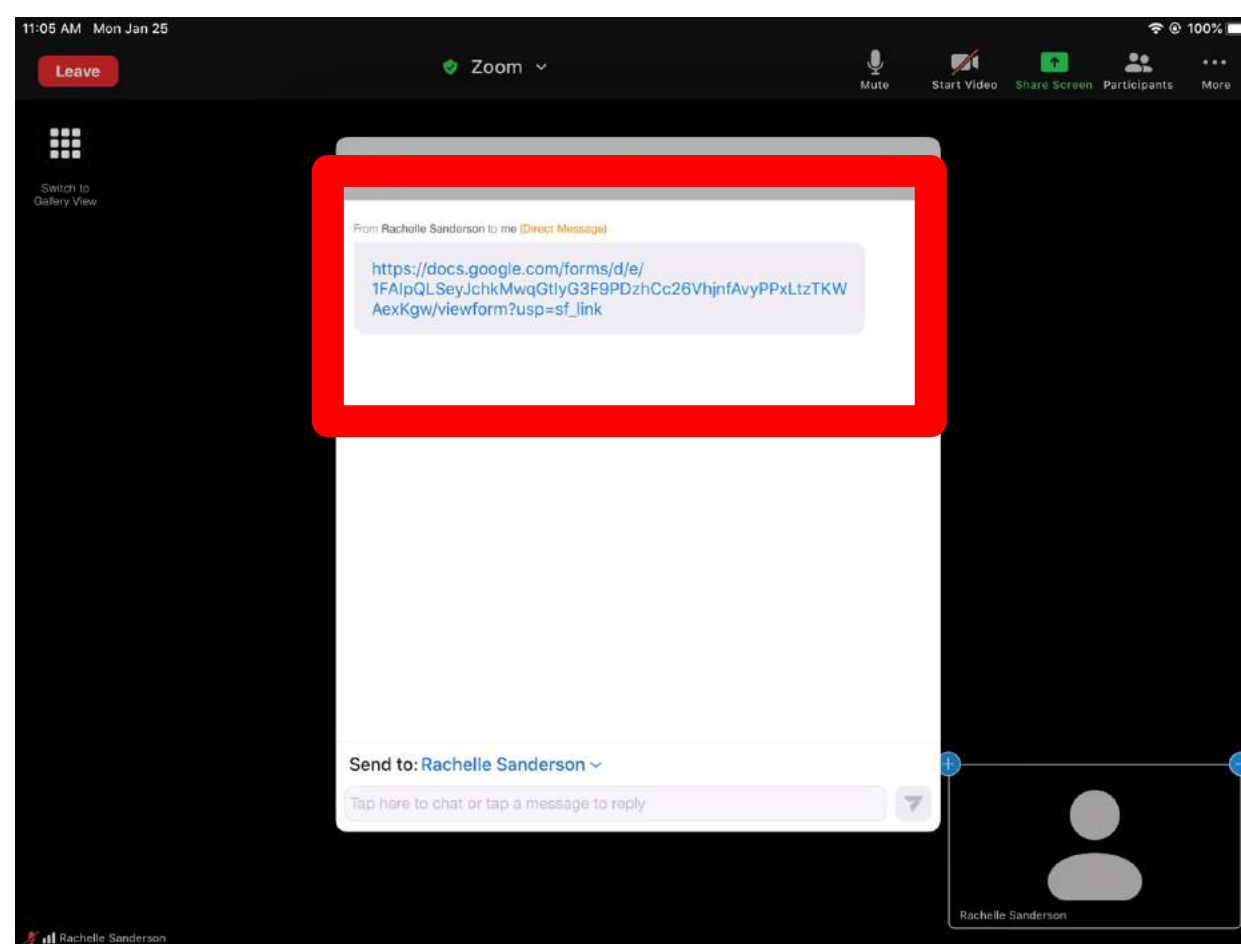
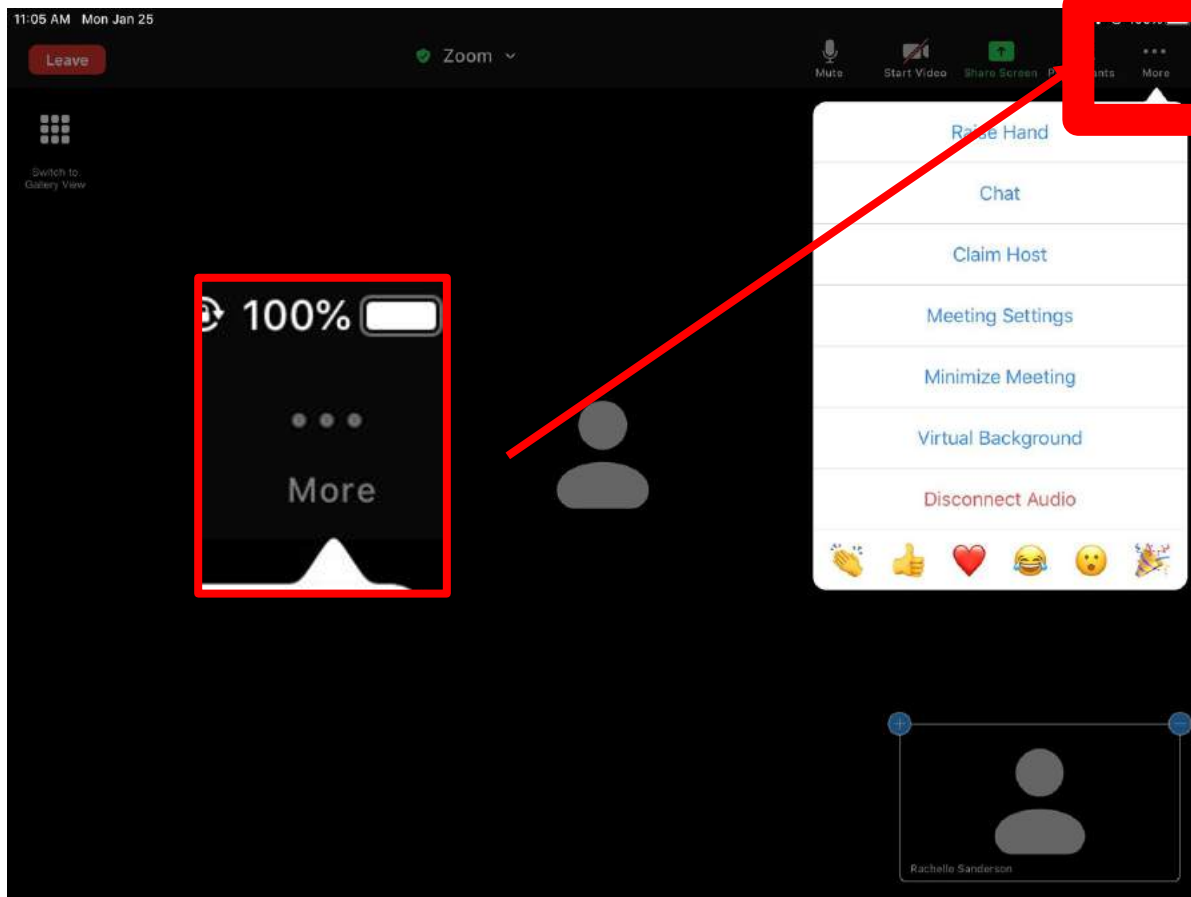
Voting, phone Zoom app instructions



3



Voting, tablet Zoom app instructions



3



CONGRATS!



3



5. Public comment



Public Comment + Request for feedback

If members of the RSC or public would like to make a comment, please do so by unmuting your microphone or by use of the chat pod at this time.
Thank you.

Request for feedback... provide us with some “pluses” and “deltas” in the chat pod or on [our board](#).

- Pluses are what you liked about today
- Deltas are things you’d like to offer to help us improve



6. Closeout



Closeout

- Adoption of January 7 meeting minutes
- Upcoming meetings:
 - February 25 from 1 to 3:30pm
 - March 23 from 1 to 3:30pm
- Action items
- Visit CRPC's website at <https://crpcla.org/> for more information on Region 7
- Visit the LWI website at <https://watershed.la.gov/> for more information on LWI



Contact information

Rachelle Sanderson, Region 7 Watershed Coordinator
Rsanderson@crpcla.org

Drew Ratcliff, Regional Disaster Recovery Manager
DRatcliff@crpcla.org

Kim Marousek, AICP, Director of Planning
Kmarousek@crpcla.org



Capital Region Planning Commission

Local Governments Working Together Since 1967

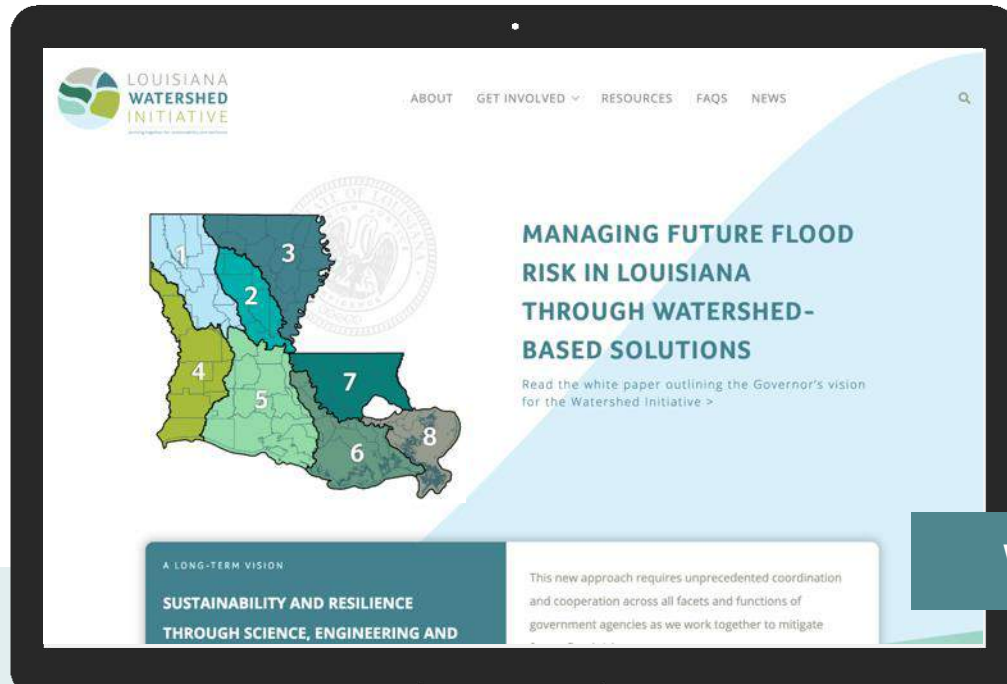


 @LAWATERSHEDINITIATIVE

 @LAWATERSHED

 WATERSHED@LA.GOV

THANK YOU



WATERSHED.LA.GOV

Idea marina



insert





REGION 7

JANUARY 28 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Accompanying slides and a recording of this meeting can be found online at <https://crpcla.org/previous-events-archive>. Please note that any time that you see “RSC” in this document, it stands for Regional Steering Committee. Anytime that you see “LWI” in this document, it stands for Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING LOGISTICS

INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING LOGISTICS

RSC DELIVERABLES

- Finalized governance recommendation due summer 201 *subject to change*
- Identify projects to recommend for funding due July 2021 *subject to change*
- Ethics training for 2021, reminder for 2020 certifications

Thank you for being here

- Ross Liner: Thanks to everyone who has been engaged in this process. We appreciate everyone’s comments and concerns and take that into consideration. We are looking forward to addressing some of these today.
- Chuck Berger: More thankful that you are participating right now when you could be doing other things outside.

SHARED AGREEMENTS

1. Be brief and meaningful when voicing your opinion.
2. Seek common ground and understanding (not problems and conflict).
3. Consider what serves the benefit of the entire region.
4. When presenting a challenge, offer a solution.

IDEA MARINA

- We will be adding the concept of an “idea marina’ in our discussions. This means when a discussion comes up that is not related to the goals of the meeting, we’ll put it in the idea marina to revisit at a later date.
-



GROUNDING EXERCISE AND RECAP OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The following reflects a series of breakout discussions between meeting participants where they were asked to identify what they hope to get out of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative and then what they hope their neighbors would get out of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. Each group has a Google Jam Board that reflects responses, in addition to the summaries provided below.

GROUP 1 ([LINK TO JAM BOARD RESPONSES](#))

Summary:

- Science-based data and modeling
- Preserve floodplains
- Deserve group of players that focus on best practices
- Better coordination and sharing of resources such as engineering
- Be more aware of the effects of drainage issues

GROUP 2 ([LINK TO JAM BOARD RESPONSES](#))

Summary:

- Boundaries by hydrology
- Cumulative effects of potential projects
- Engagement around understanding flood risks
- Consistent standards and best practices
- Greater capacity and public engagement
- Willingness to work together
- Greater standards and improved quality of life

GROUP 3 ([LINK TO JAM BOARD RESPONSES](#))

Summary:

- Upstream and downstream coordination for preservation of green spaces
- More work less red tape
- No more fill and development of wetlands
- A sense of community and shared vision towards the long-term for the good of all residents
- No one will negatively impact their neighbors

GROUP 4 ([LINK TO JAM BOARD RESPONSES](#))

Summary:

- Common drainage design criteria for projects



- Cooperation in implementing watershed improvement projects
- Equitable process that prioritizes people and prepares us for climate change
- Equitable distribution of funds not solely based on cost-benefit
- Data and modeling team
- Incorporation of best data and information
- Standards across the region
- Efficient distribution of funds for local project implementation
- Outreach and engagement, public education and outreach component about flood risk
- Planning and zoning, local ordinances
- Local government needs to be on board

REMINDER

- Region 7 Goals
- LWI Mission and Region 7 Vision (Ross Liner and Chuck Berger)
- Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16, Section 3
 - Ross Liner: I want to point out A and E.
 - Nicolette: This is what we are aspiring to, and it is an on-going process. Sometimes it can be controversial but that is part of the process.
 - Chuck Berger: I am not aware of anywhere in the country that is doing something to this magnitude. Yes, it is challenging, but it is worthwhile. There is a much greater effort going on behind the scenes with other participants to make this work together.
 - Ross Liner: You will have some opportunities during this meeting to volunteer and make this process more inclusive.
 - Pat Forbes: This is a hard thing to completely change the way we will operate. Every region is struggling to get it as good as they can, but all of us are in this together. The objective is to have people better represented in the future. We will not have long-term success unless we hear everyone's comments and concerns. I appreciate all of the comments, critical and supportive.

A QUICK RECAP

- August 19th 2020 – creating a vision, values, and goals for this region workshop
- September 23rd 2020 – identifying root causes
- October 13th 2020 – region boundaries
- November 2nd 2020 – funding discussion
- November 19th 2020 – potential functions discussion
- December 15th 2020 – governance models
- January 7th 2021 – moving towards a provisional governance recommendation
- January 28th – voted to adopt a governance recommendation



MOVING FORWARD

NEXT STEPS

- Regional
 - November – January
 - Provisional recommendations
 - Submitted
 - January – April
 - Outreach and engagement
 - May – June
 - Revisit and refine recommendations
- State
 - November – January
 - Operational guidance
 - Plan to instruct the state agencies on how to align their policies and programs
 - January – April
 - Options to align with regional recommendations considered
 - LWI Watershed Council meeting in March – you can register online.

FEBRUARY-MAY, REGION 7 OUTREACH FOR PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

- Open call for one-to-one meetings and survey (Ongoing)
- One-to-one meetings with Parish elected, NGOs, other public entities (February – March)
- Municipal regional discussions (March – April)
 - 45 municipalities across the Region
 - Multiple virtual meeting dates – dates and times will be sent out
 - Options to schedule one-to-ones
- Community conversations (March – April)
 - Spread across multiple dates and times
 - Multiple virtual meeting dates, similar to workshops
- RSC members, CRPC, OCD, Henry Consulting (OCD consultant) all have a role in support.
- Beyond May: follow-up on meetings to inform of updates to governance recommendations once the changes are incorporated.
 - Outreach and engagement - will follow up with people after the recommendation has been defined.

TRANSITION TEAM WORKING GROUP

- What is it?



- A group of people who will be able to look at all of the feedback from the outreach process and how it will be incorporated into the provisional governance recommendation.
- No more than 8 experts to assist with the transition from a RSC to a watershed body.
- Who might be a part of it?
 - People who are committed to doing work, like drafting documents.
 - Examples not entirely inclusive of everyone that could be working in this group.
 - 4 RSC members maximum.
- How will they do their work?
 - Take feedback and use it to develop these documents and present them back and/or send for feedback.
- Why are we recommending this?
 - We are transitioning into project selection and simultaneously getting feedback on the governance recommendation.
- Timeline?
 - Hoping to have the team get started in the Spring to do work through Fall 2021.
- RSC potential roles
 - Baseline effort
 - No additional role, exactly like what you are doing today – showing up to RSC meetings.
 - Additional effort
 - Reviewer – spending time outside of the meetings to review documents such as the By-Laws and Guidance.
 - Up to 3 RSC members
 - Maximum effort
 - Transition team working group member
 - Will be drafting documents, spend time in an additional meeting each month
 - Up to 4 RSC members
- Thoughts?
 - Earl Matherne: I am not volunteering for any of these.
 - Ross Liner: We do not necessarily need members currently, but the Working Group ... (will have a Chair and Vice Chair?)
 - Devin Foil: I would be interested in volunteering but would like to get more information later.
 - Bridget Bailey: I would not be able to help with the maximum effort at this point.
 - A group of people who will be able to look at all of the feedback from the outreach process and how it will be incorporated into the provisional governance recommendation.

COMBINING TIMELINES

Through the end of 2021, the region will be working towards the following items:



ROUND 1 PROJECT SELECTION

- February – April
 - Formalize decision making process
- May – June
 - Discussion on project selection
- July
 - Vote on funding recommendation for \$5 million in Region 7 Projects

PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE

- January – May
 - Round 1 outreach and engagement across Region
- May – July
 - Incorporate feedback
 - Revisit edits
- July – November
 - Draft docs with OCD and transition team
 - Round 2 outreach and engagement, going back to people and touching base about how the document changed.

TRANSITION TEAM WORKING GROUP

- February – March
 - Recruit and form transition team
- March – April
 - Review existing work
 - Identify additional feedback needed from RSC
- May – November
 - Develop bylaws, continuity plan, operational guidance, etc.
 - Feedback from RSC and eventual adoption
 - Received feedback about concerns with bureaucracy and having a Region 7a and 7b



Combining timelines

subject to change



REGIONAL PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

ROUND 1 PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Laying the foundation (Nicolette Jones)

- Program Objectives: implement low-risk, high impact projects that mitigate future flood risks.
- Pre-Applications
 - Over 120 pre-apps in Region 7 determined preliminary eligible
 - Those deemed eligible were then asked to submit a full application
- Full Application
 - Deadline: March 12, 2021
- Project Awards
 - State will select \$60M in projects by late April and sends unawarded projects to Regions.
 - Each Region will select \$5M in projects by Summer 2021.
 - Criteria is on the LWI Website: <https://watershed.la.gov/assets/docs/Round-1-Policies-and-procedures-Appendix-B.pdf>
 - Regions submit recommendations to OCD by July, and State receives regional project recommendations in July.

Ground rules put forward by OCD #1

- State will provide a scoring breakdown for each project. This is after they have been through the scoring process and the path that the Region takes.
- State scores are based on the Round 1 criteria.
- Region can select those projects that score highest under the scoring process.
 - If the region does not do this, it is necessary to provide written justification.

Commented [RS1]: Left off here – need to read through and incorporate comments from notebook and PPT



- The recommendation from the Region cannot exceed \$5M.
- RSC must vote on priorities (R7 has these through the Guiding Principles Framework).
- Regions are not required to rank projects.
 - What we are doing here does not set the precedent for what we do for Round 2 and 3.
- Regions are not required to use a quantitative approach to assessing scores or making a recommendation.
 - Can have a discussion, such as our Values that may be hard to quantify.
- Not all Regions have to use the same process.
- All meetings must be public.
- RSC must vote on the recommendation. We will reach out to the members to identify any conflicts of interest in respect to projects.

RSC Members' Role

- Recommend \$5M worth of projects from Round 1 application process.
- May also provide feedback on a decision-making process
- Two options
 - A: Follow state's decision-making process.
 - B: Design decision-making process that incorporates our regional values and goals which requires a statement of justification.

Option A (use State's criteria) – PowerPoint slides online provide a detailed timeline

Option B (use regional values and goals to shape our own process) - – PowerPoint slides online provide a detailed timeline

Comparing the two options

- Rachelle Sanderson: We have until April to think about this process. We need to make a decision by mid-April.
- Bridget Bailey: I see the pros of following the state's process because it is simple for us a group to figure out our process. However, I also see how the state's scoring system may not necessarily be what we as a region find may be appropriate. I think that if we took their tool and looked at if this is what we want to embrace, this needs to be done blindly before we have a list of what projects are possible.
- Fred Raiford: All watersheds in our state will be different and have different needs and wants in relational to a program. The community says: Why does it take so long to get a project done? I don't want to bypass our committee because all watersheds have different goals and objects, but we need to be mindful of the public. The projects need to be moving forward.
- Ross Liner: We do have an opportunity to reprioritize based on this region.
- Chuck Berger: We all need to look at and review the state's process and ask does it fit our needs in the region? Perhaps, it will need to be edited to fit our needs, but we have to understand there will be additional work.
- Ross Liner: We can't sit on these things. We could work on definitive timelines as we build these governance structures.
- Chuck Berger: Let's say a project doesn't make it past Round 1, could it be worked on for Round 2 and 3.



- Dietmar Rietschier: Time is too restricted for thinking. Are these timelines set in stone or are they flexible enough so that we can ask the state if we can have more time to do the right decision?
- Ross Liner: Dates were changed for Round 1 projects, so it doesn't seem like it's necessarily set-in stone.
- Ross Liner: Let's just say all this goes well, is our discussion only for funds that are coming through the state? If we don't have our own scoring criteria, how does that come into play?
- Pat Forbes: The state's criteria will be based on some criteria but not necessarily around geographic distribution or equity in the region.
- Bridget Bailey: We as a group need to have our own internal funds for those projects we consider a priority. Our goals as a group need to be in place, thinking about a measurement stick or tool that is generic enough for us to be able to use.
- Jenna Linn: ARBC believes the projects should be evaluated on a cost/benefit analysis similar to the evaluation process used by the Corps of Engineers.
- Russell Kelly Sr.: Fred is right as I am one who has leaned on him for action. Drainage problem resolution is so slow just as it is without adding more steps. This is where LEGAL requirements can be a factor in preventing us from doing what is KNOWN to be right. COMMON SENSE on execution must be factored in, in my opinion.
- Major Coleman: We don't know what level of review we are going to be doing and how many projects we will get. How many projects will be coming from the state and at what level of review will we be looking at for the projects?
- Nicolette Jones: The application period is still open so we don't know how many applications we will receive.
- Major Coleman: We need to wait to see what level of review we will be using for the projects.
- Nicolette Jones: The state has developed a criteria before seeing the projects. We want the region to be able to choose projects based on their priorities.
- Pat Forbes: You will not be starting from scratch – we will be providing background information for the criteria.
- Thomas Douthat: The scores across the plans will be relatively similar in their format because they will be using the FEMA worksheets?
- Pat Forbes: Not necessarily, we have a scoring form that you can compare.
- Dietmar Rietschier: Are we using FEMA/Corps type standards? What about HUD criteria?
- Pat Forbes: They don't necessarily have flood prevention project criteria. This is new and they leaned on FEMA in developing the mitigation program that provided the funds because it was not in their realm of expertise.
- Rachelle Sanderson: Whatever data and information that projects are being evaluated on, that is explicitly stated within the application process.
- Nicolette Jones: We [the state] can provide interpretation for you and your decision-making.
- Dietmar Rietschier: It may help to separate the projects by size so that end up with a balanced program.
- Chuck Berger: Give people time to go over the criteria, and then we can go over it at the next meeting. Those larger projects (in response to Dietmar) can be discussed on Round 2 and 3.



- Dietmar Rietschier: I meant figuring out a way to categorize the projects by size so that will help us to do a selection. I have seen this done in the past where you start this process of aggregation and desegregation. Larger projects affect more people, but a smaller project may have a greater score/ratio.
- Thomas Douthat: Do you want to explore stratification options?
- Chuck Berger: We need to review this in preparation for our next discussion.
- Earl Matherne: I think our charge is straight -forward. Are our priorities the same or different from the state, using the same evaluation numbers?

PUBLIC COMMENT + REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

- Russell Kelly Sr.: This is not easy, but I feel like we are headed in the right direction. I am impressed with the process. We have to have experience on the team even to ask questions to the Corps. We cannot just accept a study and say this is right. Thanks to everybody. Truth and facts (and communication) has to be the baseline as far as making this work right.
- Chuck Berger: Thanks to everyone who has contributed today. This has been great.

Request for feedback on our board:

https://jamboard.google.com/d/1L0CeDPQ3Te_cy9FvhXiutoM110kKZCs770_pE75DluU/edit?usp=sharing.

MEETING CLOSEOUT

Upcoming meeting February 25, 2021 from 1 to 3:30pm. More information, including a link to register, will be available online at <https://crpcla.org/get-involved-upcoming-events> two weeks prior to the meeting.

ADOPTION OF JANUARY 7 MEETING MINUTES

Ross Liner called for motion
Ronny Carter motioned
Chuck Berger, seconded
No objections, motion passed

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ross Liner called for motion



Ronny Carter motioned
Devin Foil seconded
No objections, motion passed

MEETING CHAT

00:47:28 Michael Enlow: Mike Enlow - Ascension Parish - Good Afternoon
00:47:58Ronny Carter: Hello
00:48:17Ronny Carter: Ronny Carter LPBF
00:48:48Jerome Fournier: Jerome Fournier,
00:48:54Dwana Williams: Good afternoon,Dwana Williams CATS
00:49:11Jerome Fournier: Jerome Fournier, Ascension Parish
00:49:46Drew Ratcliff: Drew Ratcliff, CRPC
01:20:37Russell Kelly Sr: The two comments are most welcome and is what is needed to reach agreement. Different thought processes and opinions are needed!
01:23:46John Clark: John Clark, Iberville Parish
01:24:20Russell Kelly Sr: We may have to explore beyond conventional methods to be successful. Brainstorming is a necessity. We are the lead!
01:32:22Ronny Carter: And this region will be successful in the end!
01:44:40Russell Kelly Sr: Legal vs Right is a possible opportunity to be encountered we should be aware of.
01:46:33Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (CRPC): Thanks, Russel! Good to note! Thanks, Earl - noted!
01:59:03Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (CRPC): Criteria can be found here:
<https://watershed.la.gov/assets/docs/Round-1-Policies-and-procedures-Appendix-B.pdf>
02:20:58Steve Kistler: In realty, there is no decision process for region 7 in option A
02:30:11Pat Forbes: Steve, the decision would be to simply choose the projects based on the LWI score.
02:30:24Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (CRPC): Thanks for that comment, Steve. I'm working to incorporate this into the chart
02:34:55Fred Raiford: I am sorry i have to leave and go to my 3:00 meeting
02:35:34Pat Forbes: Can't hear you, Bridget
02:36:23Jenna Linn: ARBC believes the projects should be evaluated on a cost/benefit analysis similar to the evaluation process used by the Corps of Engineers.
02:37:44Ronny Carter: We cant hear her
02:38:42Russell Kelly Sr: Fred is right as I am one who has leaned on him for action. Drainage problem resolution is so slow just as it is without adding more steps. This is where LEGAL requirements can be a factor in preventing us from doing what is KNOWN to be right. COMMON SENSE on execution must be factored in, in my opinion.
02:46:50Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (CRPC): <https://watershed.la.gov/assets/docs/Round-1-Policies-and-procedures-Appendix-B.pdf>
02:47:05Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (CRPC): ^^^ criteria posted again for your convenience
02:49:33Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (CRPC): If anyone is curious, you can view a sample application here:
https://watershed.la.gov/assets/docs/Round-1-Full-Application_01272021.pdf



02:52:08Russell Kelly Sr: The knowledge and expertise to understand, acknowledge, and challenge information received from others (including the Corps of Engineers) needs to be active and functional within the team. History shows recommendations by entities which have been approved which still are suspect. Examples available . . .

02:52:53Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (CRPC): Thanks, Russell. History is important to consider

02:53:19Ealr Matherne: I think our charge is straight forward. are our priorities the same or different from the state, using the same evaluation numbers

02:55:16Ronny Carter: That's right Ealr

02:58:50Pat Forbes: Thanks to all of you for your service to this effort. Have to drop off, now.

02:58:54Ealr Matherne: hey guys gotta go

02:59:07Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (CRPC):
https://jamboard.google.com/d/4L0CeDPQ3Te_cy9FvhXiutoM1I0kKZCs770_pE75DluU/edit?usp=sharing

03:05:08Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (CRPC): Upcoming meetings:
March 23 from 1 to 3:30pm
April 22 from 1 to 3:30pm
Action items
Visit CRPC's website at <https://crpcla.org/> for more information on Region 7
Visit the LWI website at <https://watershed.la.gov> for more information on LWI



LWI Region 7 Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

RACHELLE SANDERSON, CRPC

KIM MAROUSEK, CRPC

NICOLETTE JONES, OCD

BEN WICKER, OCD

DR. THOMAS DOUTHAT, LSU

LINDSEY LAMANA, LSU



LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

working together for sustainability and resilience



AGENDA

1. Introductions and meeting logistics
2. A quick exercise and recap of previous meetings
3. Moving forward
4. Discussion on the regional project selection process
5. Public comment
6. Closeout





1. Introductions and meeting logistics



Regional Steering Committee Meetings

- Will adhere to Louisiana Open Meetings requirements:
- Observable to the public
- Provide opportunity for public comments
- Opportunity to increase public's trust and awareness of the work of the RSC
- Importance of transparency and decision-tracking
- 24-hour advance notice of the meeting
- Allow for recording of the meeting by the audience
- Record minutes of the proceedings for public record



Roll Call and Notes

Roll Call: Please let us know if you are an alternate member

This is a public meeting:

- The meeting is being recorded and will be posted for public viewing
 - All comments made in the “chat pod” are written public comments
 - Comments from the steering committee can be made throughout the presentations
 - There is a specific time for public comments at the end of the meeting
-
- ❖ Please use your video camera during the meeting if possible
 - ❖ If anyone is having technical difficulties, please place a message in the chat pod

RSC deliverables

Regional Steering Committee Deliverables

- Finalized governance recommendation due summer 2021 **subject to change**
- Identify projects to recommend for funding due July 2021 **subject to change**
- Reminder - ethics training for 2021, reminder for 2020 certifications



Thank you for being here

- For being with us today
- Last week's weather was a bit wild
- We're still experiencing a global pandemic
- But we're here together



Shared agreements

These are “ways of engagement” for how we will be interacting with one another.

We will aspire to:

1. **Be brief and meaningful when voicing your opinion**
2. **Seek common ground and understanding (not problems and conflict)**
3. **Consider what serves the benefit of the entire region**
4. **When presenting a challenge, offer a solution**



Idea Marina

We will be adding the concept of an “idea marina” to our discussions.

This means when a discussion comes up that is not related to the goals of the meeting, we’ll put it in the idea marina to revisit at a later date.



Introductions



NAME	AFFILIATION
Mike Enlow and/or Ron Savoy	Ascension Parish
Tom Stephens and/or Fred Raiford	East Baton Rouge Parish
James Stewart and/or Joni Stone	East Feliciana
John Clark	Iberville Parish
Steve Kistler and/or Mark Harrell	Livingston Parish
Earl Matherne and/or Stephanie Bruning	St. Charles Parish
Major Coleman and/or Jeremy Williams	St. Helena Parish
Ryan Donadieu and/or Ryan Larousse	St. James Parish
Devin Foil and/or Rene Pastorek	St. John the Baptist Parish
Ross Liner and/or Jay Watson	St. Tammany Parish
Bridget Bailey and/or Melissa Cowart	Tangipahoa Parish
Bobbi Jo Breland and/or Alex Sumrall	Washington Parish
Gary Mego and/or Emily Cobb	West Feliciana Parish
Dietmar Rietschier and/or Larry Bankston	Amite River Basin Commission
Karen Zito and/or Diane Baum	Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge
Chuck Berger and/or John Sheehan, Binh Dao	Department of Environmental Quality
Ronny Carter and/or Kim Coates	Pontchartrain Conservancy and Tangipahoa Parish Council





2. A quick exercise and recap of previous meetings



Grounding Exercise

Breakout Groups (10 min in groups, 10 min report out)

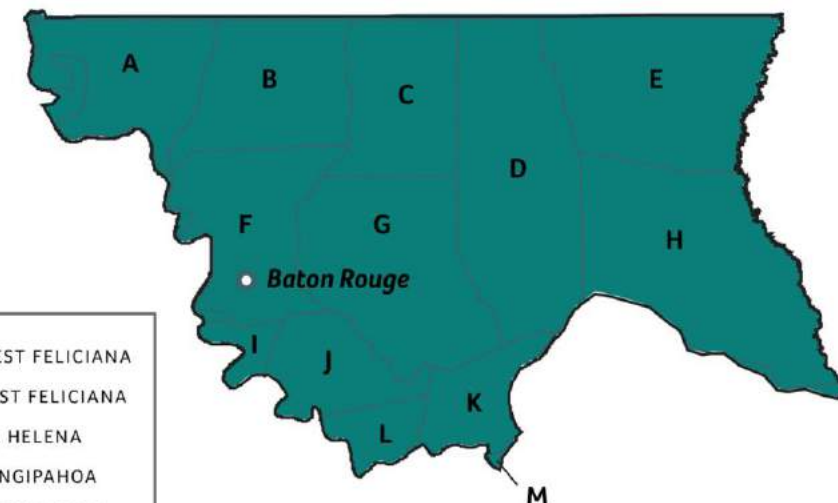
- We'll split into breakout groups
- In the breakout groups we'll ask that people ask a question through a [Jam Board](#)
- We'll get a rapid-fire collection of responses for each group to briefly talk about
- We'll come back for a quick report out



Reminder

Region 7 Goals from [Guiding Principles Framework](#)

- Equitable flood risk reduction (climate and environmental equity)
- Address urban/rural split and resource disparity
- Upstream/downstream coordination
- Identify funding sources (short and long-term)
- Regional planning efforts and the development of a comprehensive strategy that is beyond political terms
- Understand, anticipate, and incorporate the impacts of migration and population shifts due to acute (flood events) and chronic (land loss and rising seas) disasters within our strategies
- *Goals are also broken down into policy and planning, projects and programs, and data collection and management.



A	WEST FELICIANA
B	EAST FELICIANA
C	ST. HELENA
D	TANGIPAHOA
E	WASHINGTON
F	EAST BATON ROUGE
G	LIVINGSTON
H	ST. TAMMANY
I	IBERVILLE
J	ASCENSION
K	ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
L	ST. JAMES
M	ST. CHARLES

REGION 7



Reminder

Mission & Vision

- **LWI Mission:**
 - Reduce flood risk, improve floodplain management throughout the state and maximize the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains
- **Region 7 Vision:**
 - Region 7 envisions a future with less flood risk, healthier natural environments, and resilience practices that are responsive to the needs of our communities and to our evolving environment.



Reminder, Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16

SECTION 3: The goals of this Council include, but are not limited to, the following:


- A. Promoting a unified effort, built on a solid foundation of scientific and engineering principles, to address flooding issues across the state.
- B. Identifying and working with or seeking input from additional local, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders including, but not limited to, The Water Institute of the Gulf (TWIG) and other not-for-profit research institutions, the Louisiana State University Center for River Studies (LSU CRS) and other university research institutions, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and other state agencies, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other federal agencies, drainage district boards and other local district and private sector experts to develop, implement, and evaluate the necessary components of a Louisiana Watershed-based Floodplain Management Program.
- C. Expanding, developing and using in-state skill, knowledge, technology and talent to develop and implement the program, promoting Louisiana resources through collaboration, communication, and cooperation among governmental, non-governmental, for-profit, non-profit and university entities.
- D. Increasing state and local resilience to flooding by working to improve response to flooding and reduce the instances, damages, and amount of time needed to recover from flooding.
- E. Creating a path for the state and its various jurisdictions and political subdivisions to coordinate at a statewide and watershed level to maximize flood risk reduction in coordination with the natural and beneficial functions of the watershed and its floodplains, and to consistently manage floodplains using contextually appropriate best practices.
- F. Working within the interdependencies of our communities, infrastructure, political jurisdictions and natural environment to increase Louisiana's resilience and its ability to adapt and thrive.
- G. Promoting actions, including legislative, administrative, and regulatory, where appropriate, to enhance watershed-based floodplain management in Louisiana.
- H. Identifying, prioritizing, acquiring and establishing funding mechanisms to enhance the Louisiana Watershed-based Floodplain Management Program.
- I. Promoting watershed-based floodplain management by working to create watershed-based entities across the state.
- J. Developing an approach to watershed-based floodplain management that is recognized as a model for others nationally and internationally.

More than \$1.2B CDBG-MIT Investment




A quick recap...



August 19, 2020  creating a vision, values, and goals for this region



September 23, 2020  identifying root causes that we could impact and transforming challenges into opportunities and then into actions




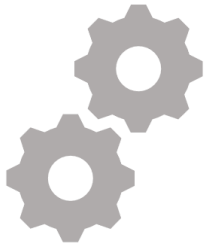
October 13, 2020  Region 7 boundaries discussion... unless there's a significant reason to do so, don't change them.




A quick recap...




November 2, 2020  funding discussion... we want to fund projects, programs, and planning efforts and we also want the ability to obtain external funding resources and to have long-term stable funding resources



November 19, 2020  Discussing potential functions... we want to provide technical assistance for projects, planning, models, and more; provide guidance and coordination; provide opportunities for outreach and education among other things



December 15, 2020  Governance models... we want there to be space for technical experts, elected officials, and everyday citizens to have roles and it is important that we create something that is strong but adaptive



A quick recap...



January 7, 2021 [?](#) moving towards a provisional governance recommendation... we discussed what would be included in the regional summary and road map sections of the document



January 28, 2021 [?](#) moving towards a provisional governance recommendation... we discussed what would be included in the regional summary and road map sections of the document





3. Moving forward



Next steps

Outreach

Regions

November – January

Provisional recommendations

January – April

Outreach and engagement

May – June

Revisit and refine recommendations

State

November – January

Operational guidance

January – April

Options to align with regional recommendations considered

May – June

Next steps, January – May, Region 7

Outreach

- RSC members + CRPC + OCD + Henry Consulting (consultant of OCD) all have a role
- 13 parishes, 45 municipalities
- If we ***only*** met with all 13 parishes, all 45 municipalities, all state legislators and the congressional delegation within our region we'd have approximately **109** meetings
 - **We'll need to be strategic, and we might miss some people but it's not for lack of want**
- Beyond May: Follow up meetings to inform of updates to governance recommendation once the changes are incorporated

Open call for one-to-one meetings and survey

- Ongoing

One-to-one meetings with Parish electeds, NGOs, other public entities

- February - March

Municipal regional discussions

- Multiple virtual meeting dates
- Option to schedule one-to-ones
- March – April

Community conversations

- Multiple virtual meeting dates
- March – April



Next steps

Transition Team Working Group

- What is it?
 - A team of no more than eight experts to assist with the transition of the RSC to the eventual governance structure. They will work to draft documents based on RSC feedback to date + the provisional governance recommendation to create bylaws, a continuity plan, decision-making matrices for the work, operational guidance, and other documents that will be necessary. CRPC will work directly with the team.
- Who might be a part of it?
 - People who are committed to doing work, like drafting documents.
 - HR specialists, people with legal expertise, people who have experience building adaptive governance structures and the associated documents, are some examples.
 - No more than 8 people, even mix of RSC members and external to RSC



Next steps

Transition Team Working Group

- How will they do their work?
 - They would look at feedback so far (including the Dec. 15 governance models exercise) and would come back at strategic moments for feedback. Over time they would develop these documents and present them back and/or send for feedback. Eventual adoption by the RSC by vote
- Why are we recommending this?
 - We're going to shift to project selection and simultaneously we'll be gathering feedback on the provisional governance recommendation through the aforementioned process. We understand that we ask much of the RSC and it will be important that we are drafting the proper documents to ensure a smooth transition. These are individuals with a specific set of skills who can support and leverage the ongoing work while filling our gaps.
- Timeline?
 - Hoping to have the team get started in the spring to do work through fall 2021.



Next steps

Transition Team Working Group – RSC potential roles

BASELINE EFFORT

NO ADDITIONAL ROLE

- Participate in regularly scheduled RSC activities (meetings and surveys)
- Provide feedback through those activities that will then be incorporated into documents

ADDITIONAL EFFORT

REVIEWER

- First reviewers of documents from the working group
- Additional hours spent reviewing documents in addition to baseline RSC activities
- Up to 3 RSC members

MAXIMUM EFFORT

WORKING GROUP MEMBER

- Members will be drafting documents, not space to listen and participate without contributing to the workload
- At least one additional meeting/month + post-meeting hours spent drafting documents
- Up to 4 RSC members



Next steps

Transition Team – RSC potential roles

BASELINE
EFFORT

NO ADDITIONAL ROLE

- Participate in regularly scheduled RSC activities (meetings and surveys)
- Provide feedback through those activities that will then be incorporated into documents

ADDITIONAL
EFFORT

REVIEWER

THOUGHTS?

- First reviewers of documents from the working group
- Additional hours spent reviewing documents in addition to baseline RSC activities
- Up to 3 RSC members

MAXIMUM
EFFORT

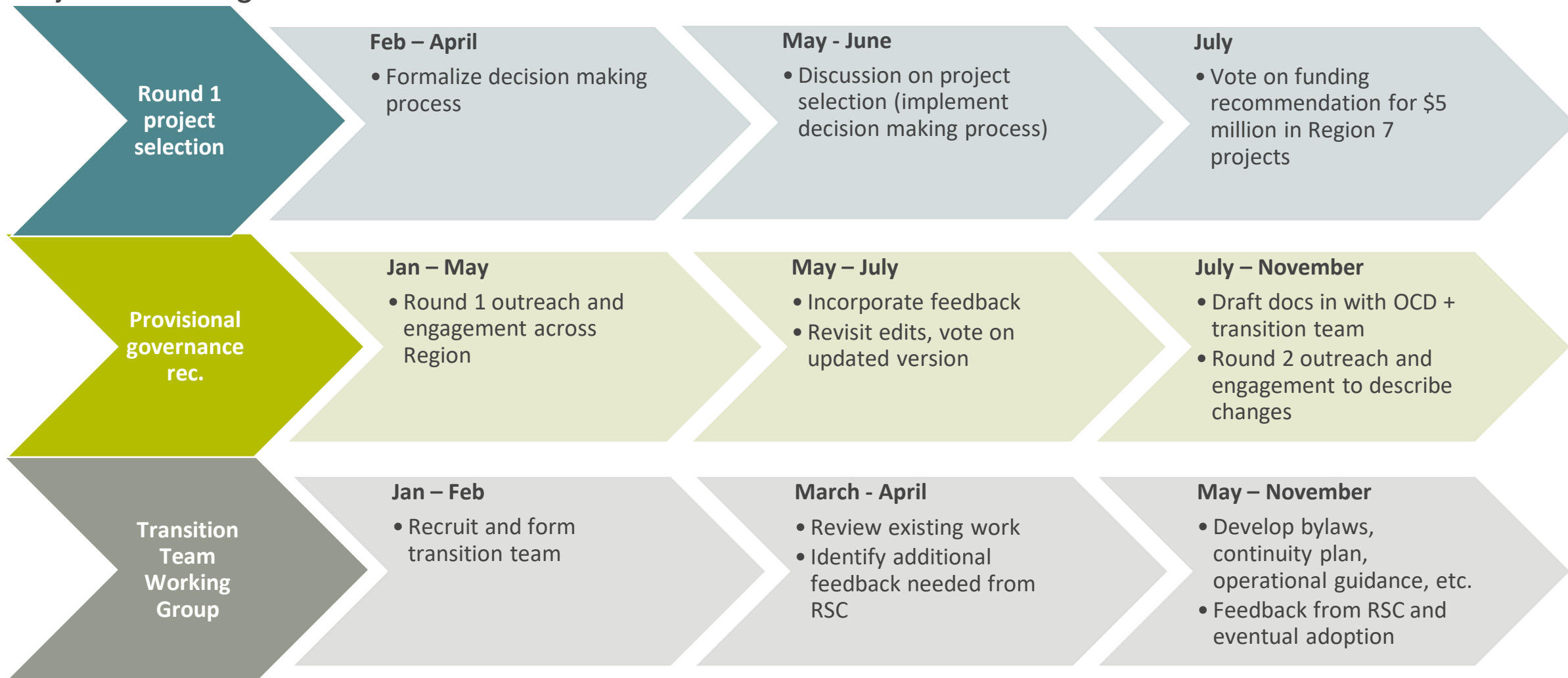
WORKING GROUP MEMBER

- Members will be drafting documents, not space to listen and participate without contributing to the workload
- At least one additional meeting/month + post-meeting hours spent drafting documents
- Up to 4 RSC members



Combining timelines

subject to change





4. Discussion on the regional project selection process



Round 1 project selection process

Laying the foundation

Program Objectives:

- Implement low-risk, high-impact projects that mitigate future flood risk and incentivize the prioritization of projects through regional watershed-based collaboration.

Pre-Applications:

- Over 120 [pre-apps](#) in Region 7 determined “preliminarily eligible” – those deemed eligible were then asked to submit a full application

Full Application:

- Deadline: March 12, 2021

Project Awards:

- State will select \$60M in projects by late April and each region will select \$5M in projects by summer ‘21
- Criteria for round 1 are listed [here](#) and there are 5 main categories:

- Effectiveness in minimizing risk, project costs and project implementation, social benefits, enhancement of natural functions, benefit to most impacted and distressed parishes



Round 1 project selection process

Laying the foundation

Project Selection Criteria:

- State's criteria for round 1 are listed [here](#) and there are 5 main categories:
 - effectiveness in minimizing risk
 - project costs and project implementation
 - social benefits
 - enhancement of natural functions
 - benefit to most impacted and distressed parishes



Round 1 project selection process

Timeline

	State Process	Regional Process
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications due 3/12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regions prepare for recommendation process
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State awards first \$60M and sends unawarded projects to regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional priority setting completed by 4/16
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regions review projects •
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State receives regional project recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regions submit recommendations to OCD by July



Round 1 project selection process

Ground rules put forward by OCD #1

- State will provide a scoring breakdown for each project
- State scores are based on the Round 1 criteria
- Region can select those projects that score the highest under the scoring process
 - ***IF*** the region does not do this, it is necessary to provide written justification
- The recommendation from the region cannot exceed \$5M
- RSC must vote on priorities (R7 has these through the Guiding Principles Framework) prior to receiving the scoring breakdown and project list. Priorities must be submitted by April 16th



Round 1 project selection process

Ground rules put forward by OCD #1

- Regions are not required to rank projects
- Regions are not required to use a quantitative approach to assessing scores or making a recommendation
- Not all regions have to use the same process
- All meetings must be public
- RSC must vote on the recommendation



Round 1 project selection process

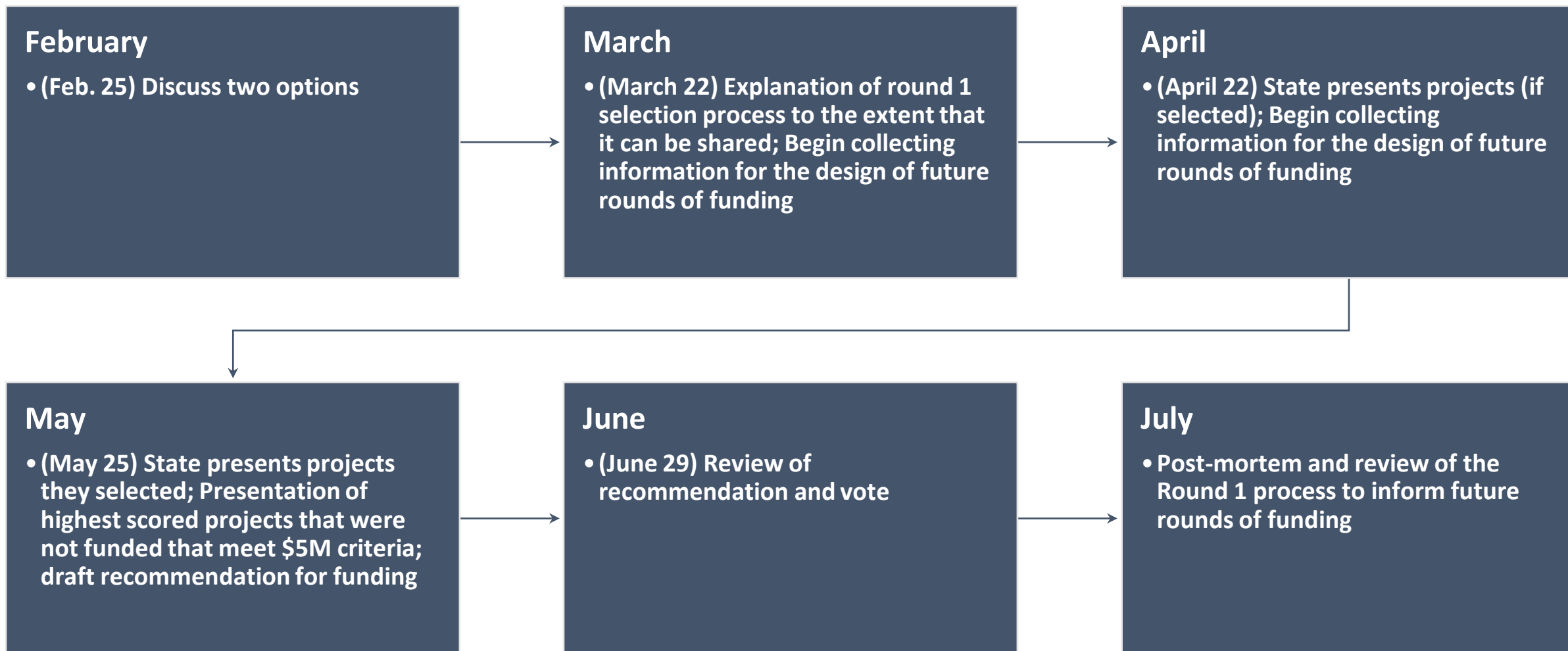
RSC Member's Role

- Recommend \$5M worth of projects (from the Round 1 project application process) to fund in Region 7
- Depending on what option we choose RSC members may also provide feedback on a decision-making process including existing criteria, additional criteria, and data needs with consideration of our goals and values outlined in the guiding principles framework
- Two options
 - Option A: Follow state's decision-making process follow state's process
 - Option B: Design decision-making process that incorporates our regional values and goals, requires a statement of justification



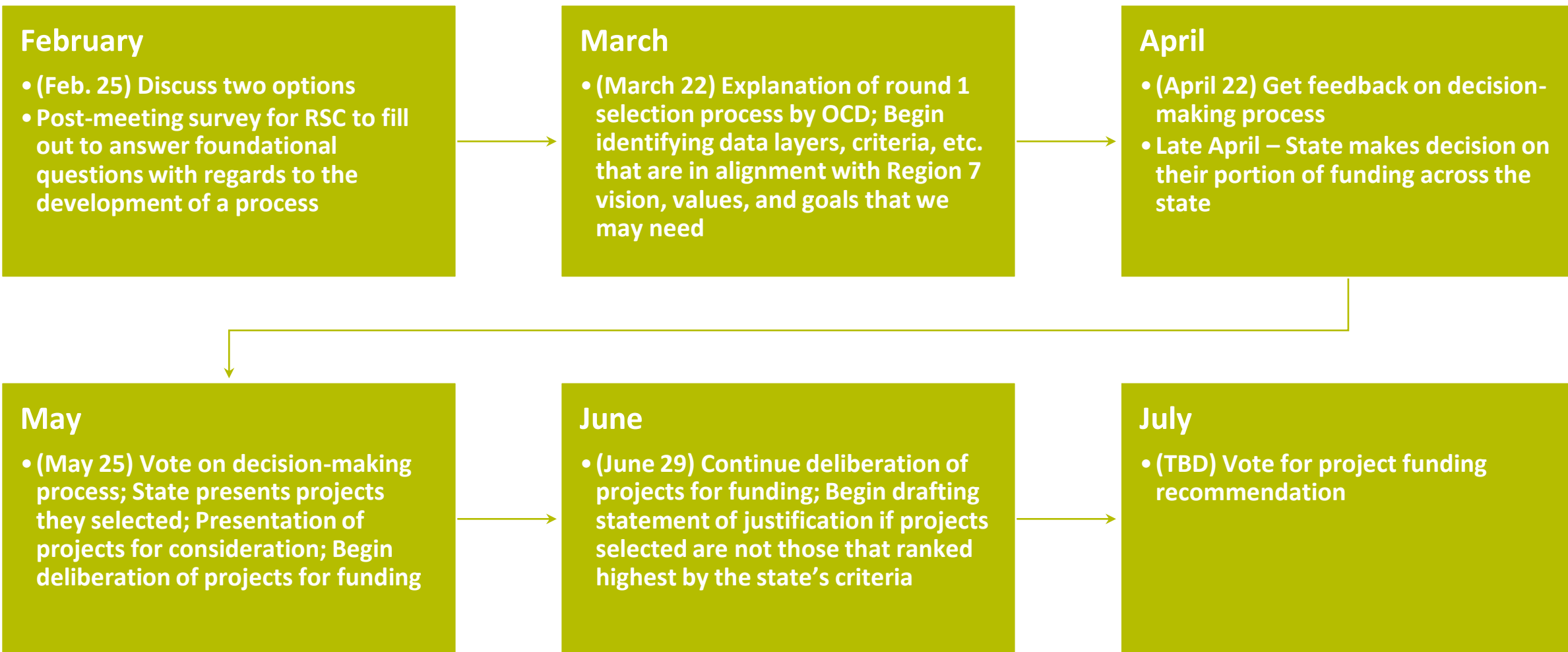
Project selection process

Blue timeline – Option A (Use State’s criteria) *subject to change



Project selection process

Green timeline – Option B (Use regional values and goals to shape our own process) *subject to change



Comparing the two options

What this would look like ***only for Round 1

**The notes on this slide
reflect notes taken
during the meeting**



OPTION A (use State's criteria)

1. The state provides a list of projects with scores.
2. We pick the highest scoring projects to fund that equate to less than \$5M and write into a recommendation for funding
3. Vote on the recommendation
4. State reviews recommendation and makes determination

OPTION B (Use regional values and goals to shape our own process)

1. Propose (and get feedback from RSC on) a decision-making process where we utilize our values and project goals (found in the Guiding Principles Framework) to determine which existing criteria by the State are in most alignment to create a weighted criteria structure
2. Incorporate quantitative and qualitative methods for assessing projects that are in alignment with regional goals and values with consensus-based decision making
3. Through a series of deliberations draft a recommendation for the expenditure of \$5M worth of projects in the region
4. Vote on the recommendation
5. State reviews recommendation and makes determination



Comparing the two options

Pros/Cons

The notes on this slide reflect notes taken during the meeting



OPTION A (use State's criteria)

PROS:

- Simplification of the process
- Spend time on other items. For example: gathering information on advantages/disadvantages of round 1; providing guest speakers for learning sessions; outreach and engagement, more time on the provisional governance recommendation, etc.
- Good if we don't have many applications to choose from

CONS:

- May be misaligned with regional goals and values
- Adopting a process that is not co-designed with RSC members

OPTION B (Use regional values and goals to shape our own process)

PROS:

- Building on state's process by weighting criteria to be in alignment with regional goals and values (priorities)
- Co-design of process between RSC members

CONS:

- Time consuming
- "Moving the measuring stick" for those who submitted through the full application process (different way of scoring)
- Statement of justification is necessary if projects selected are not the highest scoring by OCD's process

Comparing the two options

Pros/Cons

The notes on this slide reflect notes taken during the meeting



OPTION A (use State's criteria)

PROS:

- others?
- top tier of \$5M simpler method/shows states method for fairness. (Deeper dive to state's methods how/why)
- "verify-able" process (supported by state's method)
- faster/simpler process
- ability to make decision faster (public perception and getting projects out as fast as possible)

CONS:

- others?
- States scoring system may not be how the region would prioritize them
- Doesn't incorporate regional goals/values as much as option B
- may want to consider localized scoring for other /future funding opportunities (beyond Round 1)

OPTION B (Use regional values and goals to shape our own process)

PROS:

- others?
- option to re-prioritize the states scoring/weighting?
- alignment with regional needs
- ability to consider geographic distribution of funds and issues of equity that are specific to the region
- Can add criteria based on project size to help balance awards; stratification option

CONS:

- short timeline to make prioritization method
- Don't know number of projects to be reviewed or level of review required. Data requests for clarification/more info may protract review process - impacts to timeline
- Possibly more open to criticism /short timeline (concerns about how long it takes to implement)
- takes more time and work to implement this option



5. Public comment + note previous feedback



Public Comment + Request for feedback

If members of the RSC or public would like to make a comment, please do so by unmuting your microphone or by use of the chat pod at this time. Thank you.

Request for feedback... provide us with some “pluses” and “deltas” in the chat pod or on our board.

- Pluses are what you liked about today**
- Deltas are things you’d like to offer to help us improve**



6. Closeout



Closeout

- Adoption of January 28 meeting minutes
- Upcoming meetings:
 - March 23 from 1 to 3:30pm
 - April 22 from 1 to 3:30pm
- Action items
- Visit CRPC's website at <https://crpcla.org/> for more information on Region 7
- Visit the LWI website at <https://watershed.la.gov/> for more information on LWI



Contact information

Rachelle Sanderson, Region 7 Watershed Coordinator
Rsanderson@crpcla.org

Drew Ratcliff, Regional Disaster Recovery Manager
DRatcliff@crpcla.org

Kim Marousek, AICP, Director of Planning
Kmarousek@crpcla.org



Capital Region Planning Commission

Local Governments Working Together Since 1967

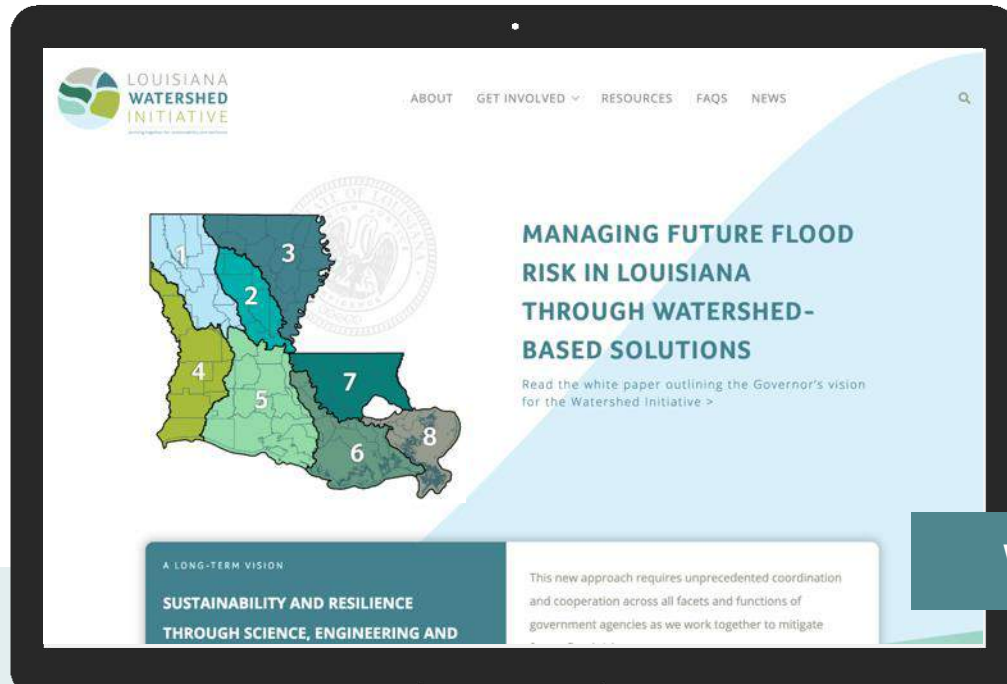


 @LAWATERSHEDINITIATIVE

 @LAWATERSHED

 WATERSHED@LA.GOV

THANK YOU



WATERSHED.LA.GOV

Idea Marina



INSERT





REGION 7

MARCH 23 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Accompanying slides and a recording of this meeting can be found online at <https://crpcla.org/previous-events-archive>. Please note that any time that you see “RSC” in this document, it stands for Regional Steering Committee. Anytime that you see “LWI” in this document, it stands for Louisiana Watershed Initiative. The Region 7 governance models packet that we focused on during the December 15, 2020 meeting can be found [here](#).

INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING LOGISTICS

GOVERNOR’S CLIMATE INITIATIVES TASK FORCE

Governor’s Climate Initiatives Task Force (Lindsay Cooper - GOCA)

- Louisiana will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to do its part to limit the worst impacts of climate change and improve the welfare of our residents and environment while maintaining its position as a world leader in energy, industry, agriculture, forestry, etc.
- Emission reduction goals by 2025, 2030, and 2050
- <https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/ExecutiveOrders/2020/JBE-2020-18-Climate-Initiatives-Task-Force.pdf>.

Working Towards a Climate Action Report for February 2022

- Soliciting emission reduction action proposals using a common **Action Proposal Template**.
- Adaptation and mitigation to climate change through greenhouse gas emissions
- Submit completed action proposals at climate@la.gov by April 30, 2021

THANK YOU AND QUICK ICEBREAKER

Thank you for being with us today. (Ross Liner, Chuck Berger, and Rachelle Sanderson)

Shared agreements

1. Be brief and meaningful when voicing your opinion.
2. Seek common ground and understanding (not problems and conflict).
3. Consider what serves the benefit of the entire region.
4. When presenting a challenge, offer a solution.

Idea Marina

- We will be adding the concept of an “idea marina” in our discussions. This means when a discussion comes up that is not related to the goals of the meeting, we’ll put it in the idea marina to revisit at a later date.



PAST MEETINGS RECAP, REMINDERS, AND UPDATES

UPDATES

Capacity building, leveraging existing work, and opportunities

- Kevin Crosby – Ouachita Parish (LWI Region 3)
 - Building off of report, *Deeper Look at the Ouachita River: How investment in Ouachita River infrastructure sustains human well-being in Ouachita Parish*, effort between Ouachita Parish and EPA, also University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM):
https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_Report.cfm?dirEntryId=350855&Lab=CEMM.
 - Wanted to look at what else the river provides (besides economic impact)
 - Ouachita Strong document
- New England, Maryland, and Syracuse Environmental Finance Centers work (funded by EPA), Technical Assistance for Innovative Climate Resilience Planning & Financing to Support Local Economic Stability & Growth
 - More substantial update at next meeting

Toolkit (partnership with Georgetown Climate Center)

- Focus on planning and zoning tools that can be used to mitigate flood risk and encourage affordable housing and other investments in locations
- Bridget Bailey: The meeting [with GCC] was an introduction to what we will be doing and working with the group.

Funding opportunities

- RESTORE Center of Excellence LOI (pending feedback)
- Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Case Study award
- Reminder about previous application with RESTORE

Speaking engagement

- Speaking engagements
 - Water and Planning Network
 - Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5059400969154913035>.
 - Daring Discussions
 - Abstract submissions for conferences
 - AWRA 2021 Summer Land and Water Specialty Conference

Open call for updates

- No updates.

REMINDER

Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16, Section 3

- Ross Liner: I want to point out A and F.



A QUICK RECAP

2020

- August – vision, values, and goals
- September 2020 – identifying root causes
- October 2020 – region boundaries
- November 2020 – funding discussion
- November 2020 – potential functions discussion
- December 2020 – governance models

2021

- January 2021 – discussion on
- January 2021 – voted to adopt a governance recommendation

Future Work

- Round 1 project selection
- Provisional governance recommendation
- Transition Team Working Group

FUNDING PATHWAYS AND DISCUSSION

Strategies for Funding Watershed Management and Flood Risk Reduction - Stephen C. Picou

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15i2rOZprz21LaPoUX0twLSTQ9Pc4Pi5M/view?usp=sharing>.

BACKGROUND

Setting the stage

- Watershed-oriented flood risk-reduction
- **Flood ready = Fund ready**
- Recognize, understand, and appreciate the power of water
- Value water, ensure its quality and measure its extraction and use
- Be prepared to attract and receive money

The Louisiana Water Economy

- Recognizes that water is our future – for better and for worse
 - Water has absolute power over us. No matter how we address water, we are spending money.
 - Water is an asset, not just a threat.
- Acknowledges and respects the roles water plays in the economic, environmental, and social wellbeing of Louisiana
- Connects businesses and social activities to transform how we work with water as we shape Louisiana's future.

User fees and potential revenue



- Most water is withdrawn with no cost.

Infrastructure bank

- Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank supports and finances infrastructure improvements including water and wastewater, road and bridge, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and brownfield remediation.
- Can serve as a hub for not only natural resource management, but for policy, entrepreneurial systems, etc.

Green and environmental impact bonds

- Massachusetts
- Louisiana

Carbon market systems

- Louisiana is the 4th largest generator of greenhouse gases.
- Virginia
 - In 2020, the state joined the multi-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
 - 45% of revenue towards flood risk-reduction
 - Mature system that is easy to plug into.

Property and sales taxes

- Louisiana is the #1 state dependent on sales taxes.
- Bayou Vermilion District
 - Voters renewed a millage tax in 2017 generating \$2.1 million in 2019.
 - Revenue will be used to manage and maintain water quality and offer public outreach and education.

Community-based public-private partnerships

- Milwaukee, WI

Mitigation banks and land trusts

- Very-active land trust in Region 7
- Cane Bayou Mitigation Bank, St. Tammany Parish
 - Conservation of critical headwaters
- Land Trust for Louisiana

Brownfield program

- You can do water management with brownfields.

Stormwater utilities

- Tool applied at the municipal level, based on impervious services.

Transportation funding for stormwater co-benefits

- Greater Memphis
 - Mid-South Regional Greenprint
- Possible with LADOTD

Nonprofit coordination of water management interests

- Milwaukee, WI
 - The Water Council – recognized as a global leader in nurturing water technology innovation, business development, and international relations.

Hazard-resistant building and development codes



- Protect people and investments
- Tailored to address local and regional natural hazards
- Reduce loss of life, property, and tax base
- Strengthen community resilience and expedite recovery
- Use combination of penalties and incentives
- Increase value by investing in hazard-resilient buildings

Natural capital: assets that grow

- Wealth and quality of life spring from natural capital
- Focus on nature-based solutions and green infrastructure
- Use strategies outlined in resources such as the 2020 FEMA report, *Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions*
- Use new cost-benefit analysis tools that measure the value of natural features and assets and are available to planners.

BE FOUND, BE FUNDED

The circular economy

- “A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use and regenerating natural systems.” – Ellen Macarthur Foundation
- Economic model for the future – will help you align your work with what occurs naturally in nature.

QUESTIONS

- Dietmar Rietschier: Louisiana has a problem of excess water, at a global-scale the problem is reverse. In your report, you missed the ARBC. ARBC has a general tax for a watershed.
 - Steve Picou: We were just trying to look at examples of what we saw happening. We did not list all of the property tax-based watershed districts.
- Dietmar Rietschier: pg. 13, we [ARBC] are a watershed agency covering watershed not political boundaries. I wish some corrections were made.
 - Steve Pico: This was a direct quote from the paper that the LWI released.
- Kim Coates: Tangipahoa Parish has a moratorium on solar farms because we are trying to put ordinances in place. Another concern is we are going to have thousands of acres of timberland that will be clear-cut. This will lead to runoff that is not replenishing the aquifer. Does anyone have recommendations to look at for that?
 - Rachele Sanderson: I will find someone that has an idea.
 - Steve Picou: I suggest looking at the cost-benefit analysis tools that are out now. I have been seeing more and more the issue of solar farms and their impacts.
 - Thomas Douhat: One thing to consider is talking to DEQ/EPA. One of the characteristics of water regulation is that non-point sources are very situational and locality specific. In part, we have trouble valuing activities that have externalities.



- Honora Buras: I have seen where solar farms have coexisted with agriculture including cattle and beekeeping. The Nature Conservancy has done some work on siting solar farms in environmentally responsible ways.

PRIORTIES AND THE PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

RECAP

February 25th discussion – project selection process

- Round 1 applications were due March 12th, 2021.
- Regional priority setting due by next meeting (4/22).
- The recommendation from the region cannot exceed \$5M.
- Regions are not required to rank projects.
- Grounding – this is for \$5M in projects for the region and we are unsure of how many applications we will receive.
- Discussed two options:
 - Option A: Follow state’s decision-making process
 - <https://watershed.la.gov/assets/docs/Round-1-Policies-and-procedures-Appendix-B.pdf>.
 - Option B: Design decision-making process that incorporates our regional values and goals, requires a statement of justification.
 - Discussed pros and cons of each option
- Evelyn Campo: You want a process that is defensible and has a clear process of how your values are expressed.

SURVEY RESPONSES

Weighted average of Round 1 project criteria (scale of 1-5, 5 being the most important)

- Effectiveness in Minimizing Risk – 4.25
- Projects Costs & Project Implementation – 3.88
- Enhancement of Natural Functions – 3.88

Compared to State’s priorities (scale 1-50, 50 being the most important)

- Effectiveness in Minimizing Risk – 44

Compared to State criteria

- Similarities
 - Effectiveness in minimizing risk ranks the most important.
 - Social benefits ranks the least important.
- Differences
 - Project costs and implementation, enhancement of natural functions, and benefit to MIDs all have the same weighted average.



- Are these differences significant enough to design a new process or do we want to spend future meeting time on something else?
 - Ross Liner: Is this only specific to this first round?
 - Rachelle Sanderson: Yes, this is only for Round 1.
 - Evelyn Campo: In terms of future programs, we don't have guidance beyond what is in the action plan. It will be important for this group to think about how they want this watershed body to work together to find sources of funding and prioritize what you will spend it on.
 - Devin Foil: Not sure, but I am leaning towards following the state.
 - Earl Matherne: It appeals to me to have our own process, but I think as an interim committee I would hate for us to make a process that we will not be around to defend later. We should at least consider strongly aligning with the state decision process.
 - Bridget Bailey: I agree with Earl. The problem is time. How would we defend that if the ad-hoc group we have is not in place down the road?
 - Dietmar Rietschier: It is not complicated, but it is a big order for a short period of time. I believe the system they put together is probably as good as it can get. The bulk of that decision-making process should be with the state. The system will be changed anyhow.
 - Ronny Carter: I don't think we are ready to write a letter of justification if we disagree with the state. If no one can come up with a really good reason, I think we should stay with the state.
 - Major Coleman: Pat mentioned that the governor did a press release with projects in Region 7.
 - Rachelle Sanderson: This was news to me at well. It is added to the final slide of the slide deck.
 - Evelyn Campo: It is a separate process and pile of funds that this press release references. This is a couple of larger program groups. Some of these projects are in Region 7.
 - <https://www.watershed.la.gov/state-projects-and-programs>.
 - Karen Zito: We are good with going with the state. No need to duplicate the efforts for the same end result.
 - Major Coleman: I feel like we should go with the state. It will be advantageous for us to go with that.
 - Gary Mego: I agree with everyone that we go with the state.

Consensus Exercise

- Based on what we're hearing, it sounds like RSC wants to pursue Option A.
 - 3 = fully support, - **the majority of votes**
 - 2 = will support with reservations,
 - 1 = stop, No RSC members stated that their opinion on pursuing Option A was a 1

Weighted average of regional values (scale of 1-5, 5 being most important)

- Quality of life, living with water – 4.44
- Economy and environment – 4.38

Weighted average of regional project-relevant goals

- Upstream/downstream coordination – 4.38
- Projects that review negative impacts downstream – 4.31
- Projects that improve the actual function of the floodplain – 4.19



NEXT MEETING

- Evelyn Campo: You may want to include in your recommendation if you are under or over the \$5M.
- Bridget Bailey: When we get our scores, we need to have some sort of way of identifying a ranking or voting aspect of projects with the same score that go over \$5M.
- Rachelle Sanderson: I will work with Evelyn on creating a 1-2 page document on approaching these scenarios.
- Need to vote on priorities – we will use the top-ranked from the survey from the survey
- Need to vote on decision-making process. We will send out a draft process document to RSC members.
 - We'll discuss with the goal of voting to adopt with edits.
 - If this is not achieved, we'll need to get RSC members together again prior to April 30th.
- Future meetings:
 - How would you all like to spend some of the time we are getting back since we are not creating our own process?
 - Ross Liner: EPA discussion follow-up on Kevin's presentation
 - Dietmar Rietschier: If it is needed to ask experts... first, what are the questions? Second, who are the experts? I believe we should keep it simple.
 - Bridget Bailey: I suggest have conversations about partnerships with future endeavors and capacity building. It is important for the RSC to figure out guidance on how to build the capacity with entities that aren't represented right now with partnerships and forums.

PUBLIC COMMENT + REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

Public Comment

- Russel Kelly Sr: I am excited about adding resources that are available such as Steve. Again, we need the correct data. Also, if anyone has any solutions, we have a serious problem with beaver dams blocking drainage in EBR Parish. I have reached out LSU to fly a drone to locate where the dams are.

Request for feedback on our board:

https://jamboard.google.com/d/16_vR3EtOoCwbDpLUYUJ84bfaS18PDQ0YRzsgspTWfM/viewer.

- Rachelle Sanderson: We would love it if you left additional feedback on the board. Pluses are what you liked, and deltas are areas for improvement that you'd like to recommend.

MEETING CLOSEOUT

Gov. office press release:

- Evelyn Campo: The state has information on the policies and procedures for Round 1 if projects go over the \$5M cap.
- Multiple projects in Region 7.



ADOPTION OF FEBRUARY 25 MEETING MINUTES

Ross Liner called for motion
Bridget Bailey motioned
Ronny Carter seconded
No objections, motion passed

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ross Liner called for motion
Major Coleman motioned
Earl Matherne seconded
No objections, motion passed

RESOURCES SHARED DURING THE MEETING

- Executive Order for Governor's Climate Initiatives Task Force: <https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/ExecutiveOrders/2020/JBE-2020-18-Climate-Initiatives-Task-Force.pdf>
- Web page with Action Plan templates: <https://gov.louisiana.gov/page/climate-initiatives-task-force>
- Where to sign up for updated: <https://gov.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/communication/signup/5>
- Deeper Look at the Ouachita River: How investment in Ouachita River infrastructure sustains human well-being in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana: https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_Report.cfm?dirEntryId=350855&Lab=CEMM
- Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) report: https://issuu.com/louisianaassociationofunitedway/docs/louisiana_alice_report_august_6_2020_release?fr=sMDRIMTE2NjA0Mjgm
- LWI Funding White Paper: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15i2rOZprz21LaPoUX0twLSTQ9Pc4Pi5M/view?usp=sharing>
- Round 1 State criteria: <https://watershed.la.gov/assets/docs/Round-1-Policies-and-procedures-Appendix-B.pdf>

MEETING CHAT

13:00:28 From Chris Shalohm : Chris Shalohm -CRPC
13:00:36 From Marvin McGraw : Marvin McGraw OCD
13:01:14 From Erin Schilling : Erin Schilling - Dana Brown & Associates
13:01:26 From Evelyn Campo : Hi everyone! Evelyn Campo, OCD
13:01:29 From Devin Foil : Devin A. Foil - St. John the Baptist Parish
13:01:35 From Lindsay Cooper : Lindsay Cooper - GOCA



13:01:36 From Jenny Schexnayder : Jenny Schexnayder, Nicholls State University Office of Coastal Support
13:01:55 From Evelyn Campo : Feel free to message me in the chat if you have tech or sound issues.
13:02:16 From Gary Mego : Gary Mego - West Feliciana Parish Government
13:02:17 From kim marousek : Kim Marousek, CRPC
13:02:31 From Pat Forbes : Pat Forbes - La. Office of Community Development
13:02:35 From Lindsey Lamana : Lindsey Lamana, LSU
13:03:23 From Jennifer Branton : Jennifer Branton, DOTD, Hammond District
13:03:26 From Nicolette Jones, OCD : Nicolette Jones, OCD
13:04:14 From Ryan Larousse : Ryan Larousse - St. James Parish Government
13:04:24 From Drew Ratcliff : Drew Ratcliff, CRPC
13:04:42 From Ryan Donadieu : Ryan Donadieu, St. James Parish
13:05:08 From Earl Matherne : Earl Matherne, St Charles Parish
13:05:51 From Karen Zito : Karen Zito, Home Builders Association GBR
13:09:47 From John Clark : John Clark, Iberville Parish
13:10:23 From Ronny Carter : Ronny Carter LPBF
13:13:14 From Evelyn Campo : <https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/ExecutiveOrders/2020/JBE-2020-18-Climate-Initiatives-Task-Force.pdf>
13:13:48 From Evelyn Campo : <https://gov.louisiana.gov/page/climate-initiatives-task-force>
13:14:58 From Chuck Berger : D
13:15:04 From Evelyn Campo : <https://gov.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/communication/signup/5>
13:15:10 From Earl Matherne : D
13:15:12 From Karen Zito : C - getting things done today!
13:15:15 From Ronny Carter : D
13:15:17 From Chris Shalohm : SLEEP
13:15:18 From Ross Liner : B
13:15:22 From Alex Sumrall : D
13:15:22 From Robert Joyner : B
13:15:23 From Lindsey Lamana : B
13:15:31 From Bridget Bailey : B
13:15:34 From Russell Kelly Sr : Fishing with C
13:15:41 From Chris Shalohm : B
13:15:50 From Honora Buras : D
13:15:57 From Erin Schilling : D
13:16:35 From Devin Foil : B for me
13:16:50 From Bobbi Jo Breland : Bobbi Jo Breland. Sorry for being late
13:19:14 From Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson : No worries, Bobbi Jo! Glad to have you on this rainy day
13:23:57 From Jerome Fournier : Thanks Evelyn.
13:24:00 From Evelyn Campo : Report:
https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_Report.cfm?dirEntryId=350855&Lab=CEMM
13:27:59 From Michael Enlow : Mike Enlow Ascension Parish
13:33:22 From Russell Kelly Sr : Kevin what elevation modeling was used?



13:37:56 From Evelyn Campo : <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5059400969154913035>

13:38:14 From Evelyn Campo : That is the link for the Water and Planning Network registration

13:41:01 From Pat Forbes : Governor's Office just put out a press release on LWI-funded State Projects, including 4 projects in Region 7.

13:54:33 From Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson : You can download the paper Steve is referencing here:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15i2rOZprz21LaPoUX0twLSTQ9Pc4Pi5M/view?usp=sharing>

13:56:22 From Bridget Bailey : Will we be able to get his slides emailed to us after today's meeting?

13:56:31 From Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson : Absolutely!

14:00:30 From Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson : Link to the Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) report:
https://issuu.com/louisianaassociationofunitedway/docs/louisiana_alice_report_august_6_2020_release?fr=sMDRI-MTE2NjA0Mjgm

14:01:16 From Ren Clark : Use funds to take wetlands out of commerce: Concrete currently accounts for about 8 percent of the carbon dioxide being emitted into the atmosphere, dwarfing the aviation industry's contribution of 2.5 percent. Concrete's contribution of CO2 is comparable to the entire agriculture industry, which is responsible for 9 percent of carbon emissions.

14:19:19 From Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson : You can download the paper Steve is referencing here:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15i2rOZprz21LaPoUX0twLSTQ9Pc4Pi5M/view?usp=sharing>

14:22:54 From Honora Buras : Great presentation!

14:31:11 From Honora Buras : Kim Coates - I have seen where solar farms have coexisted with agriculture including cattle and beekeeping. The Nature Conservancy has done some work on siting solar farms in environmentally responsible ways.

14:31:35 From Kim Coates : Thanks

14:36:45 From Evelyn Campo : State criteria: <https://watershed.la.gov/assets/docs/Round-1-Policies-and-procedures-Appendix-B.pdf>

14:52:44 From Nicolette Jones, OCD : <https://www.watershed.la.gov/state-projects-and-programs>

14:58:44 From Gary Mege : 3

14:58:44 From Karen Zito : 3

14:58:46 From Earl Matherne : 3

14:58:52 From Bridget Bailey : 3

14:58:56 From Tom Stephens : 3

14:58:56 From Devin Foil : 3

14:59:01 From Ronny Carter : 3


14:59:08 From Alex Sumrall : 3

14:59:23 From Major Coleman : 3

14:59:27 From Ross Liner : 2

15:22:09 From kim marousek : Plus and Minus board:
https://jamboard.google.com/d/16_vRf3EtOoCwbDpLUYUJ84bfaS18PDQ0YRzsgspTWfM/viewer

15:22:43 From Rachelle Sanderson : We would love it if you left additional feedback on the board. Pluses are what you liked and deltas are areas for improvement that you'd like to recommend



LWI Region 7 Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting

MARCH 23, 2021

RACHELLE SANDERSON, CRPC

KIM MAROUSEK, CRPC

EVELYN CAMPO, OCD

DR. THOMAS DOUTHAT, LSU

LINDSEY LAMANA, LSU

STEVE PICOU, ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

LINDSAY COOPER, GOCA

KEVIN CROSBY & TOM MALMAY, OUACHITA PARISH



LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

working together for sustainability and resilience



AGENDA

1. Introductions and meeting logistics
2. Past meetings recap, reminders, updates
3. Funding pathways and discussion
4. Priorities and the project selection process
5. Public comment
6. Closeout





1. Introductions and meeting logistics



Regional Steering Committee Meetings

- Will adhere to Louisiana Open Meetings requirements:
- Observable to the public
- Provide opportunity for public comments
- Opportunity to increase public's trust and awareness of the work of the RSC
- Importance of transparency and decision-tracking
- 24-hour advance notice of the meeting
- Allow for recording of the meeting by the audience
- Record minutes of the proceedings for public record



Roll Call and Notes

Roll Call: Please let us know if you are an alternate member

This is a public meeting:

- The meeting is being recorded and will be posted for public viewing
 - All comments made in the “chat pod” are written public comments
 - Comments from the steering committee can be made throughout the presentations
 - There is a specific time for public comments at the end of the meeting
-
- ❖ Please use your video camera during the meeting if possible
 - ❖ If anyone is having technical difficulties, please place a message in the chat pod

Introductions



NAME	AFFILIATION
Mike Enlow and/or Ron Savoy	Ascension Parish
Tom Stephens and/or Fred Raiford	East Baton Rouge Parish
James Stewart and/or Joni Stone	East Feliciana
John Clark	Iberville Parish
Steve Kistler and/or Mark Harrell	Livingston Parish
Earl Matherne and/or Stephanie Bruning	St. Charles Parish
Major Coleman and/or Jeremy Williams	St. Helena Parish
Ryan Donadieu and/or Ryan Larousse	St. James Parish
Devin Foil and/or Rene Pastorek	St. John the Baptist Parish
Ross Liner and/or Jay Watson	St. Tammany Parish
Bridget Bailey and/or Melissa Cowart	Tangipahoa Parish
Bobbi Jo Breland and/or Alex Sumrall	Washington Parish
Gary Mego and/or Emily Cobb	West Feliciana Parish
Dietmar Rietschier and/or Larry Bankston	Amite River Basin Commission
Karen Zito and/or Diane Baum	Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge
Chuck Berger and/or John Sheehan, Binh Dao	Department of Environmental Quality
Ronny Carter and/or Kim Coates	Pontchartrain Conservancy and Tangipahoa Parish Council





2. Past meetings recap, reminders, updates



Governor's Climate Initiatives Task Force

VISION AND GOALS

Louisiana will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to do its part to limit the worst impacts of climate change and improve the welfare of its residents and environment while maintaining its position as a world leader in energy, industry, agriculture, forestry, and transportation.



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JBE 2020-18

CLIMATE INITIATIVES TASK FORCE

- WHEREAS, Louisiana's working coast is a national treasure, exporting over \$120 billion in annual goods, serving 50% of the oil and gas activity in the Gulf of Mexico, providing 21% of all commercial fisheries landings by weight in the Lower 48 states, and providing access habitat for five million migratory waterfowl;
- WHEREAS, coastal Louisiana is also a vital regional asset which serves as residence to 2.5 million people and as a historical foundation to our unique cultural heritage;
- WHEREAS, Louisiana's coast continues to experience one of the fastest rates of land loss in the world, and parts of our State remain unprotected from an increasing number of hurricanes and flood event impacts;
- WHEREAS, Louisiana and its citizens have suffered catastrophic losses and human, economic, and social harm as a result of increased flood risk due to coastal land loss, and the continued threat of further land loss to Louisiana's coast endangers its residents, economy, and natural fish and wildlife species;
- WHEREAS, beginning in 2007, Louisiana has adopted, revised, and updated a comprehensive plan for a sustainable coast (the "master plan");
- WHEREAS, the master plan integrates coastal protection strategies and coastal restoration strategies to provide increased flood protection for communities and to maintain the amount of land maintained or restored in coastal Louisiana;
- WHEREAS, according to the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, without significant action, continued subsidence and sea level rise over the next 80 years could result in the additional loss of between 2,350 and 4,120 square miles of Coastal Louisiana;
- WHEREAS, rising sea levels will reduce the effectiveness of built and planned investments in coastal protection and restoration, threatening the longevity of coastal protection and restoration projects;
- WHEREAS, as in the case with other coastal states, impacts from climate change will be disproportionately felt by the citizens of our State with the least resources;
- WHEREAS, in the 2018 Special Report "Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius," the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the "IPCC") concluded that overall "climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are expected to increase with global warming of 1.5 degrees and increase further with 2 degrees" above pre-industrial temperatures;
- WHEREAS, in the 2018 Special Report, the IPCC further concluded that reducing greenhouse gas emissions can slow global warming and reduce the magnitude and speed of future sea level rise, enabling greater opportunities for adaptation for human and ecological systems to keep living coastal and deltaic areas;



Governor's Climate Initiatives Task Force

WORKING TOWARDS A CLIMATE ACTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Soliciting emission reduction action proposals using a common **Action Proposal Template**.

- Proposed Action Overview
- Impacts of Proposed Action
- Feasibility of Proposed Action
- Implementation Pathway

Action Templates will be available as a downloadable PDF or Google Form on the Climate Initiatives Task Force homepage:

<https://gov.louisiana.gov/page/climate-initiatives-task-force>.

Submit completed action proposals to climate@la.gov by **April 30, 2021**. You may also mail a physical copy to the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, 1051 N 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

The image shows a preview of the 'Action Proposal Template' form. The form is titled 'Action Proposal Template' and is part of the 'LOUISIANA CLIMATE INITIATIVE'. It includes a 'Background' section explaining the task force's goals and a 'Instructions' section detailing how to complete the form. The form is designed to be filled out by stakeholders to propose emission reduction actions.

Action Proposal Template

Please fill out this Action Template to the best of your ability. Some of the questions are technical or require research. If you do not know the answer to any of the questions below, leave it blank or share any considerations or uncertainties in your answer. Your proposal will be considered even if you leave questions blank. The Task Force, its committees and advisory groups, and staff will conduct research and fill knowledge gaps as needed.

For each recommendation, please complete one Action Template. Each subsequent page includes guidance and prompts to help you develop effective components that make up an Action and that will support its evaluation.

Background

The Louisiana Climate Initiatives Task Force, set forth by an Executive Order of Governor John Bel Edwards, aims to identify strategies for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across all sectors of the Louisiana economy and society. The Task Force's Final Climate Report will lay out these strategies through compiling multiple actions and their implementation pathways that collectively set Louisiana on a path to meet its goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

An Action is based around a specific policy, program, or project that will result in a net reduction in GHG emissions and/or comprehensively address a cross-cutting implementation priority (Climate Equity, Economic Transition, Scientific Advancement, Governance).

Action recommendations can be developed and submitted by Sector Committee members, Climate Task Force Members, Advisory Group members, the Governor's Office, state agency partners, local organizations, and the public. We encourage Actions to be developed collaboratively. Each Action will follow a consistent format and include a title, description, impact on net GHG emissions, co-benefits, consequences, timeframe, lead and partners, climate equity priorities, and other implementation and feasibility considerations.

Action proposals submitted through this process will be reviewed and considered and may be modified or combined with other Action recommendations. Actions will be collectively evaluated against the Fundamental Objectives of the Climate Initiatives Task Force (see full list at the end of this document) and included in a trade-off analysis to inform decisions by the Climate Task Force on the best path forward for achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

Instructions

Please fill out this Action Template to the best of your ability. Some of the questions are technical or require research. If you do not know the answer to any of the questions below, leave it blank or share any considerations or uncertainties in your answer. Your proposal will be considered even if you leave questions blank. The Task Force, its committees and advisory groups, and staff will conduct research and fill knowledge gaps as needed.

For each recommendation, please complete one Action Template. Each subsequent page includes guidance and prompts to help you develop effective components that make up an Action and that will support its evaluation.

Submit completed action proposals to climate@la.gov by **April 30, 2021**. You may also mail a physical copy to the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, 1051 N 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Alternatively, you may complete an action proposal using the online form at <https://forms.gle/5DQmUeE00GJz0c>.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES

Next

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.



Thank you & a quick icebreaker

- For being with us today
- Icebreaker: Select view options – annotate from your taskbar to pick which image resonates with you the most today or put the letter in the chat pod and let us know why you chose that letter



Shared agreements

These are “ways of engagement” for how we will be interacting with one another.

We will aspire to:

1. **Be brief and meaningful when voicing your opinion**
2. **Seek common ground and understanding (not problems and conflict)**
3. **Consider what serves the benefit of the entire region**
4. **When presenting a challenge, offer a solution**



Idea Marina

We will be adding the concept of an “idea marina” to our discussions.

This means when a discussion comes up that is not related to the goals of the meeting, we’ll put it in the idea marina to revisit at a later date.



Updates

Capacity building, leveraging existing work, and opportunities

- Building off of report, [*Deeper Look at the Ouachita River: How investment in Ouachita River infrastructure sustains human well-being in Ouachita Parish*](#), partnered effort between Ouachita Parish and EPA
- New England, Maryland, and Syracuse Environmental Finance Centers work (funded by EPA), **Technical Assistance for Innovative Climate Resilience Planning & Financing to Support Local Economic Stability & Growth**



Updates

Toolkit (partnership with Georgetown Climate Center)

- Focus on planning and zoning tools that can be used to mitigate flood risk and encourage affordable housing and other investments in locations in low-food risk (receiving) areas. Planning Work Group members include (*indicates RSC member):

Bridget Bailey* , Director of the Office of Community Development with Tangipahoa Parish	Jerome Fournier , Director of Planning & Development with Ascension Parish
Evelyn Campo , Resilience Planning Specialist with Office of Community Development with Louisiana Office of Community Development	Dr. Robert Habans , Economist with the Data Center
Dr. Thomas Douthat , Associate Professor with LSU College of the Coast and Environment	Ross Liner* , Director of Planning & Development with St. Tammany Parish
Dr. Monica Teets-Farris , Director of UNO-CHART	Andreanecia Morris , Executive Director of Housing New Orleans/Housing Louisiana
Devin Foil* , Zoning Regulatory Administrator/Floodplain Manager/Coastal Zone Administrator with St. John the Baptist Parish	Dr. Zhu Ning , Professor in Urban Forestry/Ecophysiology and Climate Change at Southern University
	Karen Zito , Executive Director of Homebuilders Association of Greater Baton Rouge



Updates

Funding opportunities

- **RESTORE Center of Excellence LOI (pending feedback):** Award announcement July 2021, up to \$500,000 over two years, The Data Center and LSU College of Coast and Environment
- **Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Case Study award:** Award announcement spring/summer 2021, \$2,000, LSU College of Coast and Environment and New York University
- Reminder about previous application with RESTORE



Updates

Speaking engagements

- **Speaking engagements**

- **Water and Planning Network: *Water and Comprehensive Planning - Theory to Practice*, March 25 from 1 to 2 pm**, Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5059400969154913035>
- **Daring Discussions. *Losing Home, Finding Home: The price of climate change in Louisiana***, May 13, time TBD

- **Abstract submissions for conferences**

- **AWRA 2021 Summer Land and Water Specialty Conference: *The Louisiana Watershed Initiative: Implementing regional watershed governance to reduce flood risk***
- **PENDING: At What Point Managed Retreat, June 22 - June 25, 2021, *A Journey of Uncertainty: Developing a Regional Watershed Governance Structure***



Updates

Open call for updates

- **RSC members, let us know if you have updates**
- **Other folks on the call, please put updates you'd like to share in the chat pod**



Reminder, Gov. EO # JBE 2018-16

SECTION 3: The goals of this Council include, but are not limited to, the following:

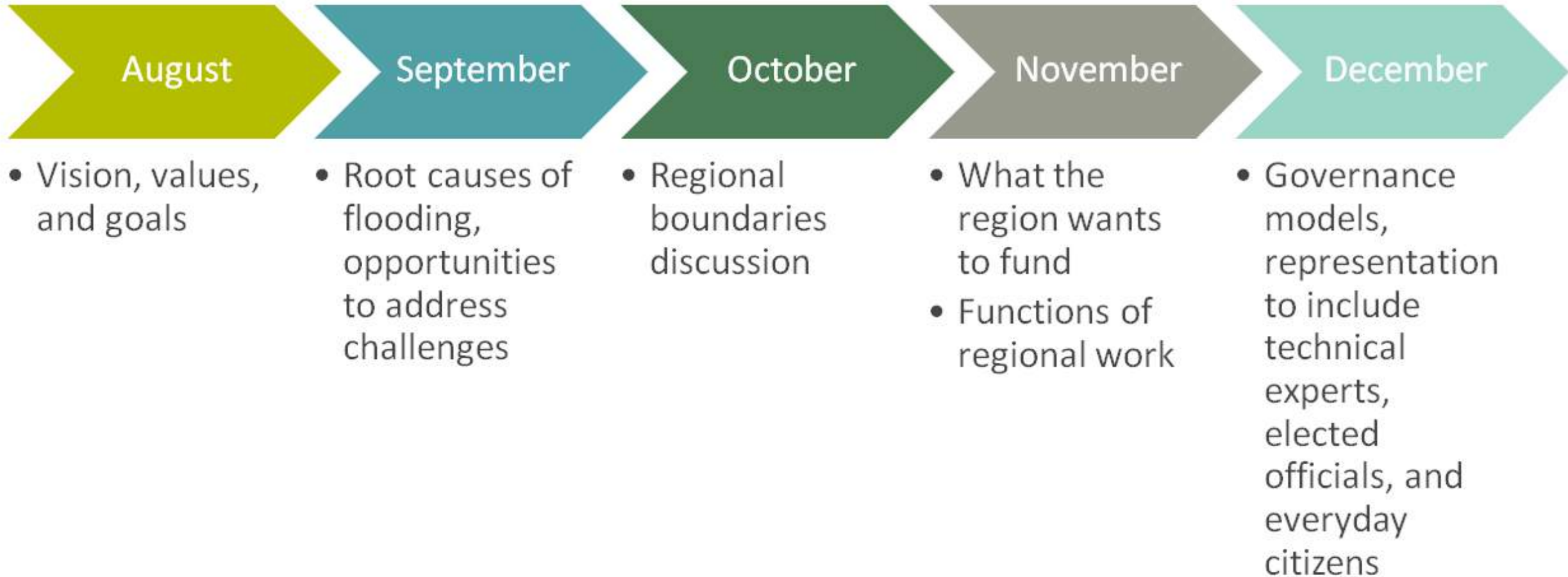
- A. Promoting a unified effort, built on a solid foundation of scientific and engineering principles, to address flooding issues across the state.
- B. Identifying and working with or seeking input from additional local, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders including, but not limited to, The Water Institute of the Gulf (TWIG) and other not-for-profit research institutions, the Louisiana State University Center for River Studies (LSU CRS) and other university research institutions, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and other state agencies, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other federal agencies, drainage district boards and other local district and private sector experts to develop, implement, and evaluate the necessary components of a Louisiana Watershed-based Floodplain Management Program.
- C. Expanding, developing and using in-state skill, knowledge, technology and talent to develop and implement the program, promoting Louisiana resources through collaboration, communication, and cooperation among governmental, non-governmental, for-profit, non-profit and university entities.
- D. Increasing state and local resilience to flooding by working to improve response to flooding and reduce the instances, damages, and amount of time needed to recover from flooding.
- E. Creating a path for the state and its various jurisdictions and political subdivisions to coordinate at a statewide and watershed level to maximize flood risk reduction in coordination with the natural and beneficial functions of the watershed and its floodplains, and to consistently manage floodplains using contextually appropriate best practices.
- F. Working within the interdependencies of our communities, infrastructure, political jurisdictions and natural environment to increase Louisiana's resilience and its ability to adapt and thrive.
- G. Promoting actions, including legislative, administrative, and regulatory, where appropriate, to enhance watershed-based floodplain management in Louisiana.
- H. Identifying, prioritizing, acquiring and establishing funding mechanisms to enhance the Louisiana Watershed-based Floodplain Management Program.
- I. Promoting watershed-based floodplain management by working to create watershed-based entities across the state.
- J. Developing an approach to watershed-based floodplain management that is recognized as a model for others nationally and internationally.

More than \$1.2B CDBG-MIT Investment



A quick recap...

2020



A quick recap...

2021 to date



January

- Discussion on provisional governance recommendation
- Vote on provisional governance recommendation

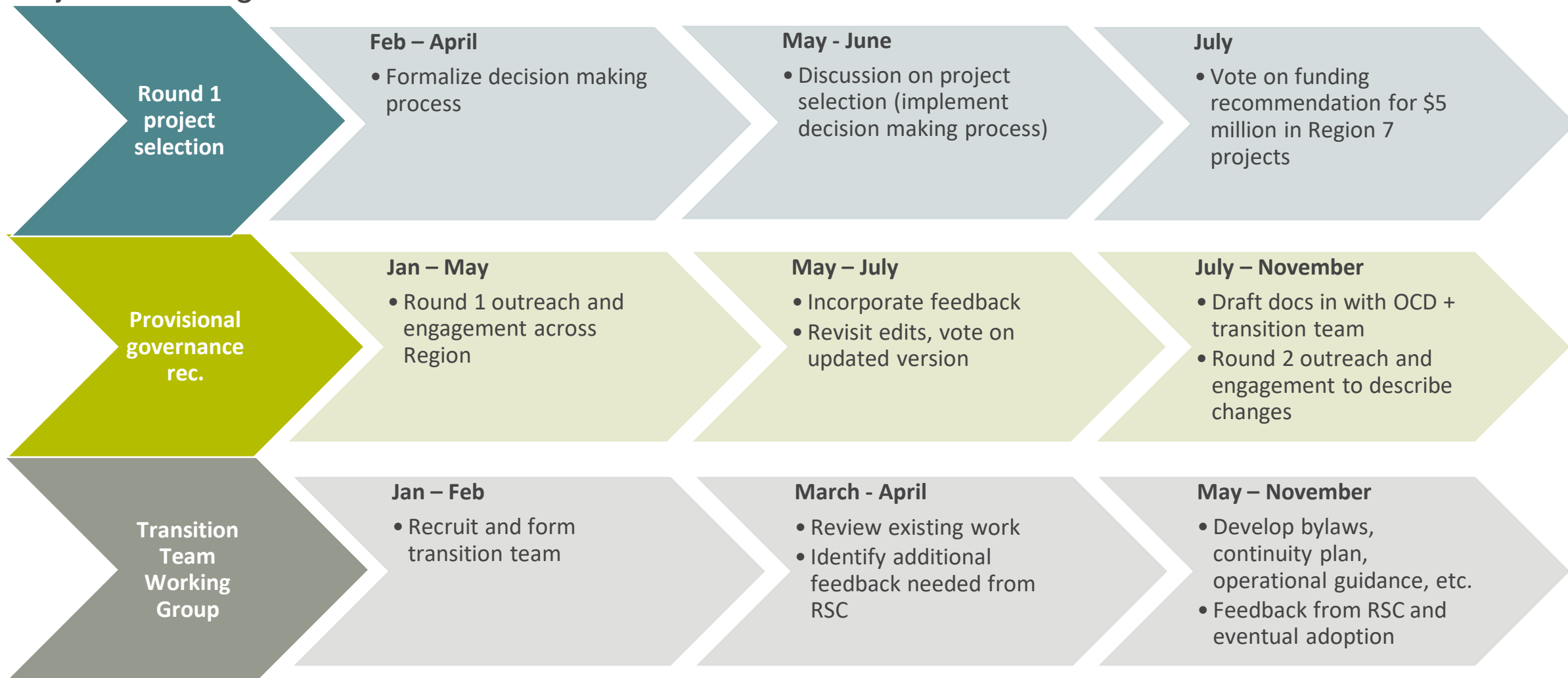
February

- Work for 2021
- Discuss regional Round 1 project selection process



Future work

subject to change





3. Funding pathways and discussion





4. Priorities and the project selection process



Recap

February 25 discussion – project selection process

- Round 1 applications were due 3/12
- Regional priority setting **due by our next meeting (4/22)**, Regional recommendations for project funding due July
- Region can select those projects that score the highest under the scoring process
- IF the region does not do this, it is necessary to provide written justification
- The recommendation from the region cannot exceed \$5M
- Regions are not required to rank projects



Recap

February 25 discussion – project selection process

- Grounding – this is for \$5M dollars in projects for the region and we are unsure of how many applications we will receive that will be less than \$5M. There will be two other rounds of project funding in the future.
- Discussed two options for the regional project selection process
 - Option A: Follow state’s decision-making process follow state’s process
 - Option B: Design decision-making process that incorporates our regional values and goals, requires a statement of justification
 - Discussed pros and cons of each option



Comparing the two options

Pros/Cons

OPTION A (use State's criteria)	OPTION B (Use regional values and goals to shape our own process)
<p>PROS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simplification of the process - Spend time on other items. For example: gathering information on advantages/disadvantages of round 1; providing guest speakers for learning sessions; outreach and engagement, more time on the provisional governance recommendation, etc. - Good if we don't have many applications to choose from 	<p>PROS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building on state's process by weighting criteria to be in alignment with regional goals and values (priorities) - Co-design of process between RSC members
<p>CONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be misaligned with regional goals and values - Adopting a process that is not co-designed with RSC members 	<p>CONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time consuming - "Moving the measuring stick" for those who submitted through the full application process (different way of scoring) - Statement of justification is necessary if projects selected are not the highest scoring by OCD's process

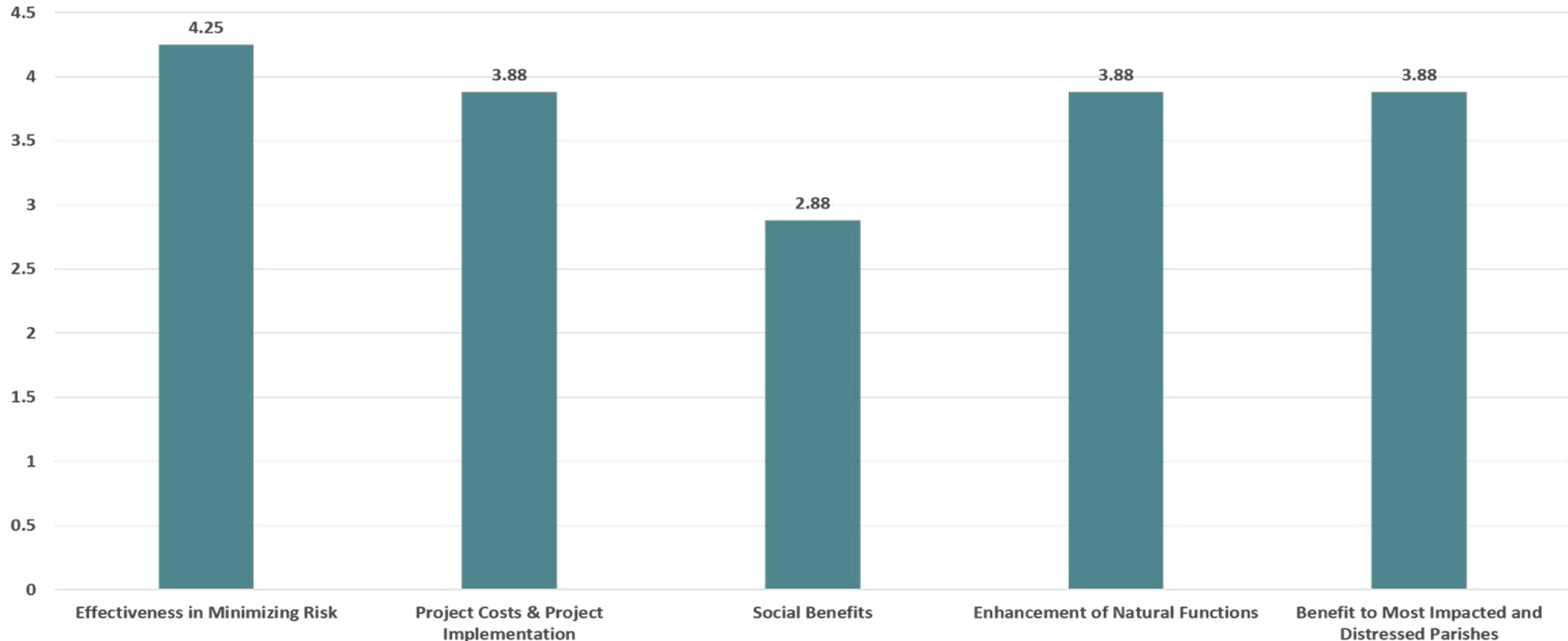
Comparing the two options

Pros/Cons

OPTION A (use State's criteria)	OPTION B (Use regional values and goals to shape our own process)
<p>PROS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - top tier of \$5M simpler method/shows states method for fairness. (Deeper dive to state's methods how/why) - "verify-able" process (supported by state's method) - faster/simpler process - ability to make decision faster (public perception and getting projects out as fast as possible) 	<p>PROS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - option to re-prioritize the states scoring/weighting? - alignment with regional needs - ability to consider geographic distribution of funds and issues of equity that are specific to the region - Can add criteria based on project size to help balance awards; stratification option
<p>CONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - States scoring system may not be how the region would prioritize them - Doesn't incorporate regional goals/values as much as option B - may want to consider localized scoring for other /future funding opportunities (beyond Round 1) 	<p>CONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - short timeline to make prioritization method - Don't know number of projects to be reviewed or level of review required. Data requests for clarification/more info may protract review process - impacts to timeline - Possibly more open to criticism /short timeline (concerns about how long it takes to implement)

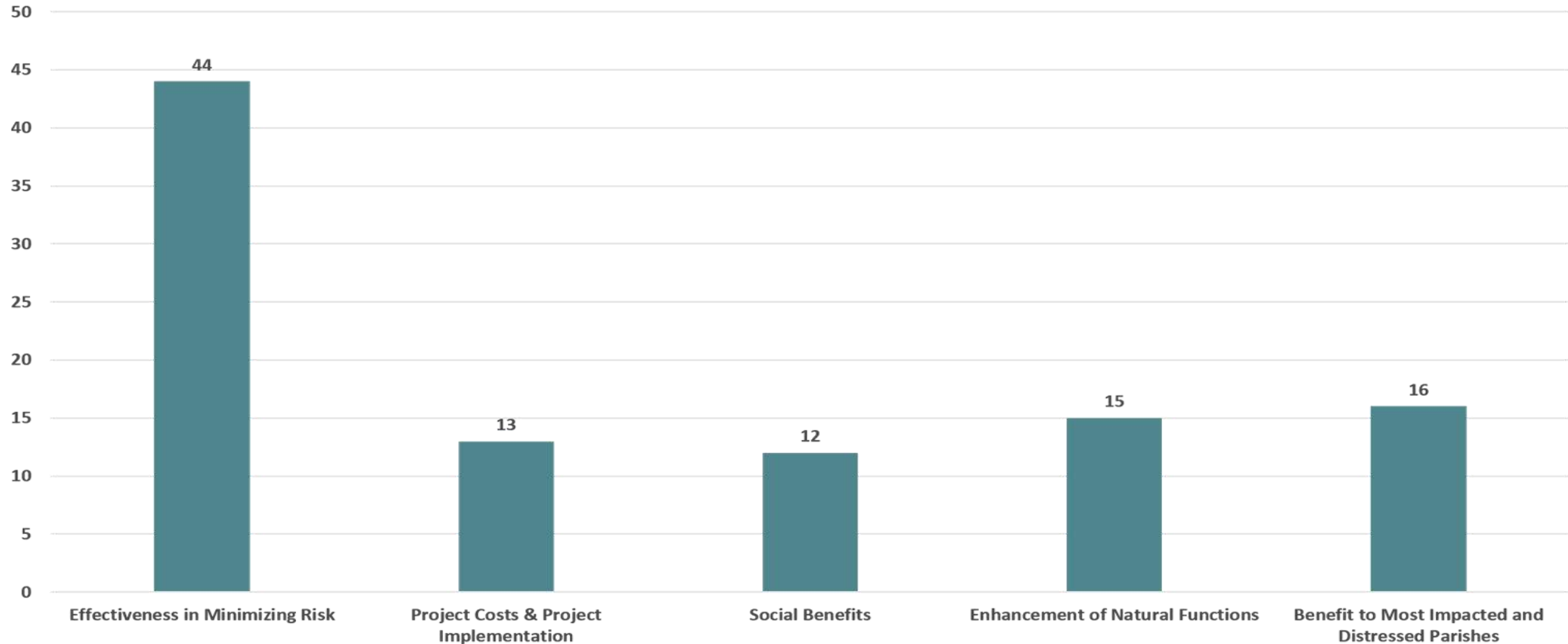
Survey responses

Weighted average of Round 1 project criteria



Compared to State's priorities

Round 1 project criteria



Survey responses

Compared to State criteria

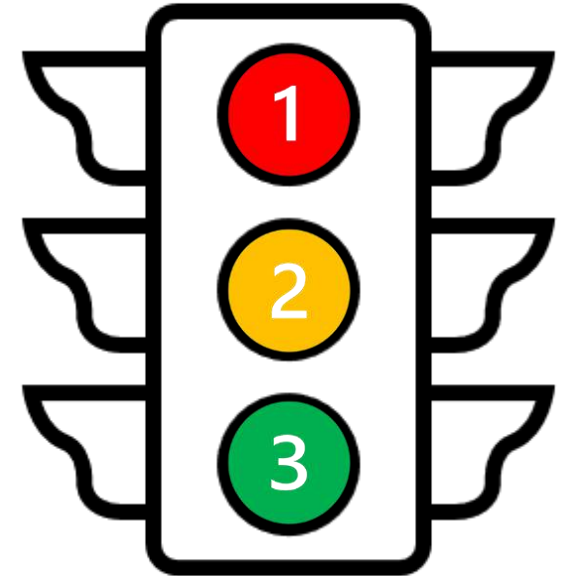
- The differences are not significant and the weighted average of importance of most categories does not significantly differ from the number of points allocated for each category by the state
- Similarities
 - Both rank effectiveness in minimizing risk as the **most important** criteria based on number of points allocated
 - Both rank social benefits as the **least important** criteria based on number of points allocated
- Differences
 - Project costs and implementation (13 points), enhancement of natural functions (15 points), and benefit to MIDs (16 points) all three have the same weighted average (3.88)
- Are these differences significant enough to design a new process or do we want to spend future meeting time on something else?
 - Priorities and decision-making process are due by end of April, we'll need to vote on both during the next meeting



Consensus exercise

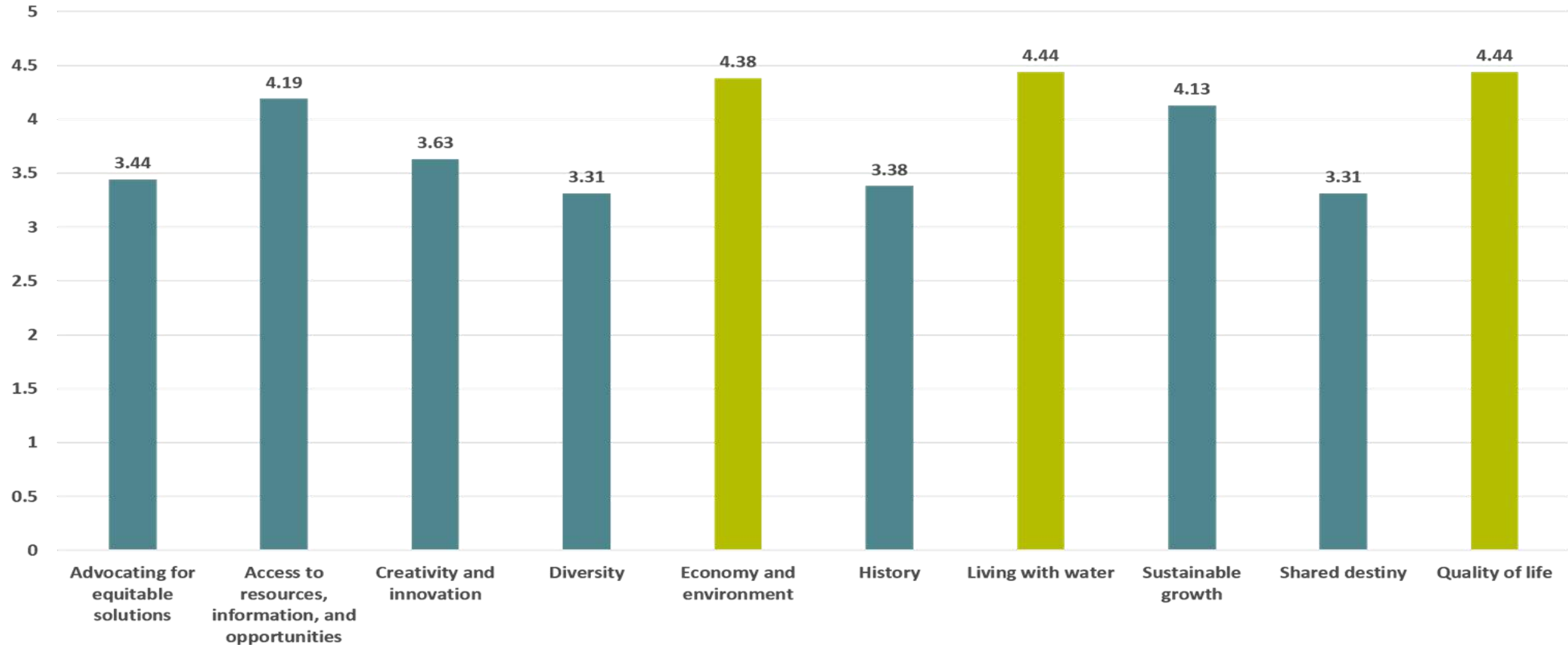
Option A or B

- Based on what we're hearing, it sounds like the RSC wants to pursue Option A *RSC members put in the chat pod/come off mute which number resonates with you
 - **3 = Fully support**
 - “I will support the proposal and its implementation”
 - **2 = Will support with reservations**
 - “I have questions and concerns but can live with and support implementation”
 - **1 = Stop**
 - “I have too many questions and concerns, cannot live with it, we need more discussion”



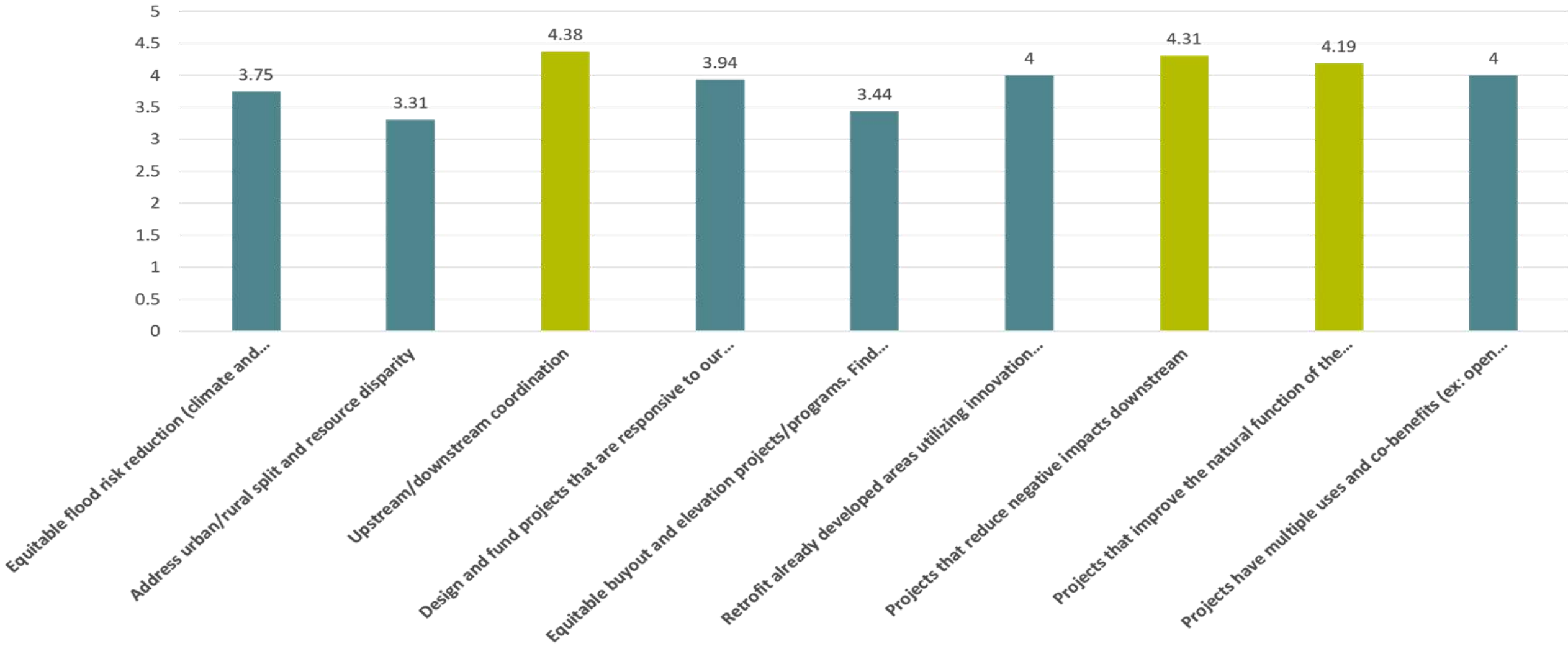
Survey responses

Weighted average of regional values



Survey responses

Weighted average of regional project-relevant goals



Regional project selection process

Next meeting

- RSC will vote on adopting the state's decision-making process during April 22 meeting
- Future meetings:
 - EPA discussion follow up from Kevin's presentation
 - ways to expand regional buy-in; partnerships and collaborative examples; joint projects/efforts; build capacity and grow partnerships





5. Public comment



Public Comment + Request for feedback

If members of the RSC or public would like to make a comment, please do so by unmuting your microphone or by use of the chat pod at this time. Thank you.

Request for feedback... provide us with some “pluses” and “deltas” in the chat pod or on our board.

- Pluses are what you liked about today**
- Deltas are things you’d like to offer to help us improve**



6. Closeout



Closeout

- Adoption of February 25 meeting minutes
- Gov. office press release: <https://gov.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/newsroom/detail/3047>
- Upcoming meetings:
 - April 22 from 1 to 3:30pm
 - May 25 from 1 to 3:30pm
- Action items
- Visit CRPC's website at <https://crpcla.org/> for more information on Region 7
- Visit the LWI website at <https://watershed.la.gov/> for more information on LWI



Contact information

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Kim Marousek, AICP, Director of Planning
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Capital Region Planning Commission

Local Governments Working Together Since 1967

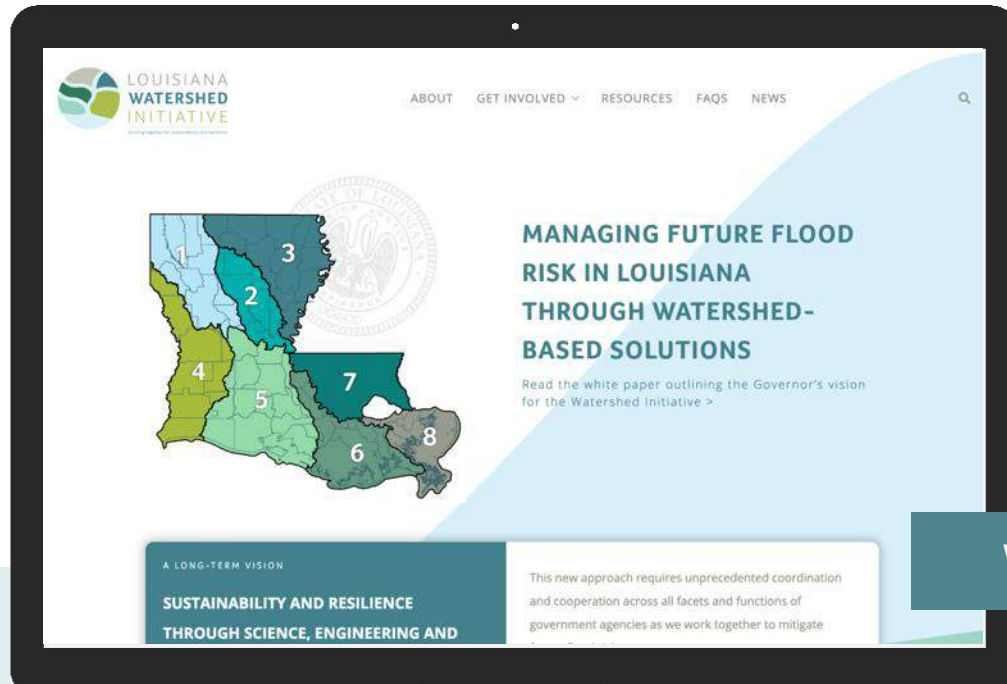


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Idea Marina



INSERT

3.23 Kim Coates - question about aquifer recharge and run off from solar farm installations looking for guidance on how to quantify potential impacts. Tom suggested reaching out to DEQ re Nonpoint discharge





Strategies for Funding Watershed Management and Flood Risk Reduction

March 23, 2021

Stephen C. Picou
Adaptation Strategies

LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

working together for sustainability and resilience



AGENDA

1. Background
2. Research approach
3. Types of strategies
4. Questions





1. Background



Setting the stage

- Recognize, understand and appreciate the power of water
- Value water, ensure its quality and measure its extraction and use
- Be prepared to attract and receive money

FLOOD READY = FUND READY



MARCH 2015 FLOOD EVENT, ALEXANDRIA



The Louisiana Water Economy

- Recognizes that water is our future—for better and worse
- Acknowledges and respects the role water plays in the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of Louisiana
- Connects business and social activities to transform how we work with water as we shape Louisiana's future



SOURCE: LOUISIANA WATER ECONOMY NETWORK





2: Research approach



Methodology and approach

Key questions to consider:

- What is the genesis of a given funding source?
- What is the key legislation at play?
- What are the characteristics of the funding source?
- Is the funding source recurring and from a consistent source?
- Did fees/taxes require authorization and/or regular reauthorization by legislative bodies or popular vote?
- Is there a mandated equity component?
- Is there an effective website and/or funding guide or portal?
- Is the funding source applicable to Louisiana? If so, then how?





3. Types of strategies



User fees and potential revenue

- Most water is withdrawn at no cost.
- User fees have the potential to generate between \$30 million and \$60 million in annual revenue.

WITHDRAWAL SECTOR	DAILY USE IN MILLIONS OF GALLONS PER DAY	ANNUAL USE IN MILLIONS OF GALLONS	POTENTIAL REVENUE FROM A \$10 ANNUAL USE FEE
Public, rural domestic	754	275,210	\$2.75 million
Agriculture, livestock and aquaculture	1,546	564,290	\$5.64 million
Industrial, power generation	6,420	23,43,300	\$23.43 million

SOURCES: DOTD, 2015; LLA, 2020



Stormwater utilities

Nashville, TN (population of 6.8 million)

- Instituted a stormwater fee in 2017 in response to major flood in 2010
- Collects \$6 per month for a typical residential property
- Generates \$34 million annually
- Provides incentives for detention, water quality and education

Nashville, NC (population of 5,500)

- Collects \$2.50 per month or \$30 annually for a typical per residential property
- Collects \$30 annually per 2,500 square foot of non-residential impervious surface for
- Generates \$140,000 annually to support a new stormwater division



CLOGGED STORMWATER DRAIN
SOURCE: STEPHEN C. PICOU



Infrastructure bank

Rhode Island (population of 1 million)

- Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank supports and finances infrastructure improvements including water and wastewater, road and bridge, energy efficiency, renewable energy and brownfield remediation.
- The Stormwater Project Accelerator provides up-front capital for stormwater infrastructure projects.
- The Municipal Resilience Program helps towns and cities identify and fund climate change-related priorities.



SOURCE: RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK



Green and environmental impact bonds

Massachusetts (population of 6.9 million)

- In 2018, the state passed a \$2.4 billion Environmental Bond Bill to fund a comprehensive approach to climate adaptation.
- The legislation funds the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program which requires local governments to participate in training to develop integrated hazard mitigation plans, aligning language, data and goals throughout the state.

Louisiana (population of 4.6 million)

- In 2018, the Louisiana Community Development Authority participated in issuing the state's first green bonds using Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act funds.
- \$12 million in revenue will be dedicated for environmental infrastructure work.



Carbon market systems

Virginia (population of 8.5 million)

- In 2020, the state joined the multi-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
- First year revenues are projected to be \$50 million to \$100 million with 45% of proceeds to fund flood, sea level rise and severe weather event costs.
- The state ranks seventeenth nationally for annual greenhouse gas emissions of 98MMT.

NOTE: Louisiana ranks fourth nationally for annual greenhouse gas emissions of 226MMT (Source: EIA)

“Localities shall use moneys from the Fund primarily for the purpose of implementing flood prevention and protection projects and studies in areas that are subject to recurrent flooding as confirmed by locality-certified floodplain manager”

SOURCE: VAFLOODS.ORG



Property and sales taxes

Bayou Vermilion District

- Voters renewed a millage tax in 2017 generating \$2.1 million in 2019.
- Revenue will be used to manage and maintain water quality and offer public outreach and education.
- Funds will supplement tax revenue with tourism revenue and leverage educational outreach to build awareness and support for water quality improvement projects, economic development and watershed management.
- Funds will be used to build the Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation-certified water quality lab and education center.



SOURCE: BAYOUVERMILIONDISTRICT.ORG



Community-based public-private partnerships

Milwaukee, WI (population of 587,000)

- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District contracted with Corvias, a private company, to design and install green infrastructure stormwater capture projects.
- Corvias financed the projects and is paid by MMSD based on the number of gallons captured in a performance-based contract.
- The partnership accelerates implementation beyond standard publicly-funded processes.



SOURCE: MMSD.COM



Mitigation banks and land trusts

Cane Bayou Mitigation Bank, St. Tammany Parish

- Market-based effort by St. Tammany Parish to leverage mitigation credits purchased at a lower price and use funds generated from selling at a higher price
- Initiative will restore and protect 1,169 acres in headwaters of Cane Bayou and help offset nearby development impacts

Land Trust for Louisiana

- Management of 20 projects conserving 7,000 acres



CANE BAYOU, ST. TAMMANY PARISH



Brownfield program

Minnesota (population of 5.6 million)

- Minnesota's Stormwater Park and Learning Center removed 16,330 metric tons of contaminated soil.
- The project restored a riverbank that connects to a new public access point
- The initiative won a Brownfield ReScape Award in 2019.



SOURCE: MISSISSIPPI WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION



Transportation funding for stormwater co-benefits

Greater Memphis (population of 1.3 million in TN, MS and AR)

- Mid-South Regional Greenprint combined multiple funding sources: federal, state and local to leverage transportation and street design funding to holistically address flooding, green space and recreation.
- The project encompasses parts of three states.



FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT,
ST. BERNARD PARISH



Nonprofit coordination of water management interests

New Jersey (population of 8.9 million)

- In 2019, the state authorized counties and municipalities to establish stormwater utilities.
- New Jersey Future partnered with Flood Defense New Jersey to establish the New Jersey Stormwater Utility Resource Center.



Milwaukee, WI (population of 587,000)

- The Global Water Center is the world headquarters of The Water Council.
- It is recognized as a global leader in nurturing water technology innovation, business development and international relations.



Hazard-resistant building and development codes

- Protect people and investments
- Tailored to address local and regional natural hazards
- Reduce loss of life, property and tax base
- Strengthen community resilience and expedite recovery
- Use combination of penalties and incentives
- Increase value by investing in hazard-resilient buildings

“Disaster resistant buildings that meet the 2018 International Residential Code and 2018 International Building Code led to a national benefit of \$11 for every \$1 invested in comparison to older generations of code” – FEMA



Natural capital: assets that grow

- Focus on nature-based solutions and green infrastructure
- Use strategies outlined in resources such as the 2020 FEMA report, *Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions*
- Use new cost-benefit analysis tools that measure the value of natural features and assets and are available to planners



SOURCE: ADAPTATION STRATEGIES



Be found, be funded



Common language

- Use widely adopted language for describing disasters, response and recovery, as well as climate change adaptation plans and restoration projects.

Systems thinking

- Align with key terms, data and metrics that can help connect projects and needs to global support systems and philanthropy.
- Algorithms driving machine learning systems increasingly guide funding decisions.

New tools

- Adopt new metrics for cost-benefit accounting that encompass a broad range of natural, social and economic factors
- “Harmonize” applications by using new tools to help planners meet modern criteria



The circular economy

“A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use and regenerating natural systems.”

Ellen MacArthur Foundation

- Systemic approach to economic development
- Moves away from linear “take-make-waste” economic model to one that operates more like nature
- Provides opportunity for a sustainable economy less dependent on destructive practices and built upon activities that restore and regenerate natural capital
- Starts with a focus on eliminating waste and toxicity
- Exemplified by the water cycle as one of nature’s circular systems



SOURCE: ADAPTATION STRATEGIES





Author: Stephen C. Picou (Adaptation Strategies)
With contributions from: Greshopper Mendoza, CFM,
Andres B. Calvin, PhD & Tara Tolford, AICP (Adaptation Strategies)

Introduction

Floods are the most frequently occurring disaster on the planet, and a growing number of financial tools, techniques, and systems are emerging to address this reality. Watershed-oriented flood management is a relatively new approach, and the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) is at the forefront of efforts by several states to adopt similar methods.

Because watershed and flood-risk management involve complex systems, best practices for long-term funding inevitably require multiple sources and a mix of mechanisms and organizations to receive and manage funds. As an examination of funding mechanisms, this paper aims to introduce the reader to strategies not yet widely used in Louisiana. Some of these strategies are familiar, some new to Louisiana; all have potential to generate substantial revenue streams.

Our success in designing and funding policies and programs necessary for effective watershed-based solutions will determine the fate of current and future generations living in Louisiana.

Strategies for Funding Watershed Management and Flood-Risk Reduction in Louisiana

- Outlays best practices for long term funding inevitably require multiple sources, public support and a mix of mechanisms and organizations to receive and manage funds
- Provides additional information, including more than 140 links to specific programs, strategies and resources and suggested reading, as well as a table highlighting 13 localities.





4. Questions



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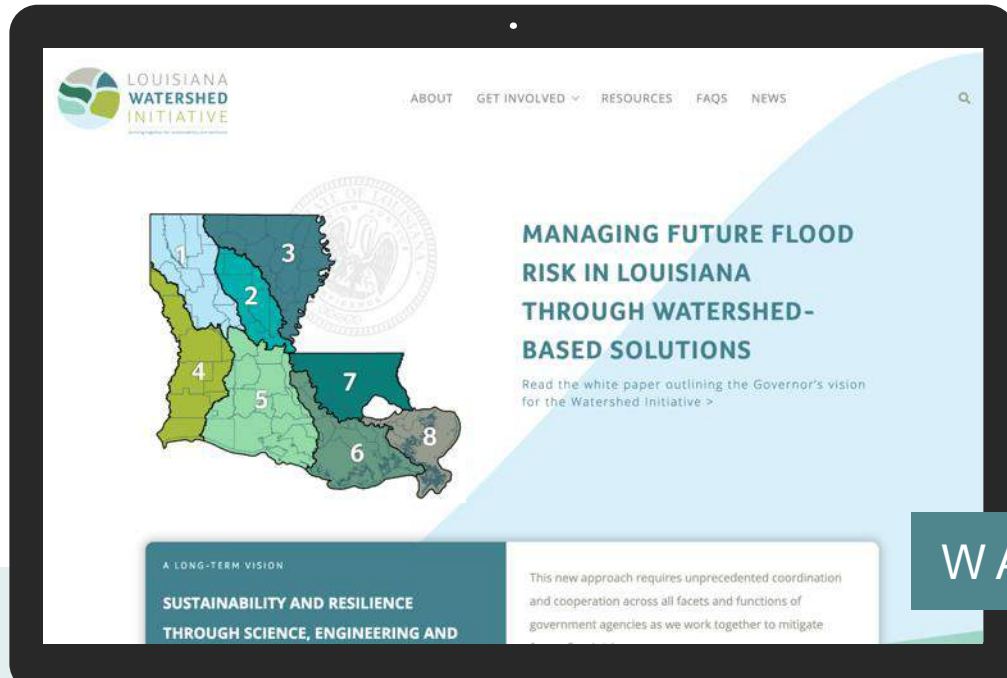
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**Scope of Work Between Georgetown Climate Center (GCC) and the Capital Region
Planning Commission (CRPC) in Louisiana**

Period of performance: January 2021 to May 2022

Work provided/defined: GCC will provide legal and policy support to CRPC to design and implement regional and local coastal resilience planning and zoning measures in furtherance of the ongoing Regional Watershed Initiative.

Objectives:

Georgetown Climate Center—

- Continue and deepen our work on managed retreat and equitable adaptation by translating national-level tools and best practices to meet ongoing regional and local needs in coastal Louisiana, as identified by CRPC and other project partners.
- Gain a deeper understanding of the unique context and challenges facing Louisiana.
- Support active and ongoing work at the regional and local levels looking towards encouraging the implementation of more resilient plans, laws, and policies throughout Louisiana’s eight regional watersheds, with an emphasis on Region Seven.
- Grow and deepen our relationships and partnerships in this region of Louisiana, especially with state and local policymakers, local community-based organizations, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- Promote peer learning on a national scale by capturing and sharing the outputs, takeaways, and lessons learned from this work in written format (TBD) through GCC’s Adaptation Clearinghouse and Managed Retreat and Equitable Adaptation Legal and Policy toolkits.

Capital Region Planning Commission—

- Begin building out explicit work for the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, with a focus on Region 7, in equitable adaptation by working with Georgetown Climate Center to translate national-level tools and best practices to meet the needs identified by Region 7 partners.
- Grow and deepen relationships with new and existing partners.
- Promote peer learning on national, state, and regional scales through shared conversations, integration of lessons and deliverables into training materials, and by sharing efforts through formal channels (email, website, etc.).
- Further understand the complexity of managed retreat and its impacts in relocating and receiving communities in Louisiana.

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- Support the work of local municipalities and parishes as they navigate the complex geo- and socio-political landscapes of developing and adopting higher standards while providing equitable low-risk housing opportunities.
- Further understand the challenges and opportunities that exist in Louisiana with adopting higher standards while providing equitable low-risk housing opportunities
- Bring national, state, and regional attention to addressing low-risk affordable housing opportunities in tandem with higher building standards that meet the needs of changing climates.
- Weave together and leverage related but disconnected efforts and partners through the planning team to promote further coordination and collaboration.

Forecasted outputs:

- An **online toolkit** [**name TBD**] based on Louisiana law and specific for a Louisiana audience.
 - The toolkit (format and structure TBD) will focus on planning and zoning tools (both regulatory and incentive- or market-based) that can be used to (1.) mitigate flood risk across areas in Louisiana that are mapped as low-, moderate-, and high-flood-risk (e.g., expanding green space, nature-based solutions); and (2.) encourage affordable housing and other investments in locations becoming or expected to become receiving areas.
 - In identifying receiving areas, the toolkit should consider locations that may have less coastal flooding risk but that could face other types of flooding risk based on existing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), historic flood events, and additional flood risk maps being developed through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (although the release of the final mapping results will likely post-date this work).
 - The toolkit will lay out the legal and policy tradeoffs of different tools and, where possible, seek to incorporate “plug-and-play” planning and zoning language that can be more easily implemented by regional and local authorities.
 - GCC will identify and prioritize tools and case studies that have been used elsewhere in the Gulf Coast Region or other regions similar to rural Louisiana (based on e.g., geography, demographics, political orientation) to enhance the value of the toolkit’s knowledge transfer.
- Setup a **Planning Work Group** [**name TBD**] to guide and inform this process.
 - Meeting agendas and summaries for Planning Work Group convenings
- Partner/related outputs TBD (e.g., supporting economic analysis to justify adaptation actions)
- Case study(ies) summarizing this work for the GCC Adaptation Clearinghouse and Managed Retreat and Equitable Adaptation Legal and Policy toolkits.

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- Others (e.g., education and outreach materials for state and local policymakers, community members, etc.? outreach and engagement plan?)

Tentative 18-month timeframe and milestones:

Time Period	Task	Lead Person/Entity Responsible
December 2020 to January 2021	Finalize Scope of Work; plan to convene the first meeting of the Planning Work Group in February	GCC and CRPC
February 2021 (*ask members for their availability on February 23 or 25 A.M. and P.M. slots)	Hold the first introductory meeting of the Planning Work Group; develop group expectations and come up with a tentative schedule for future meetings (e.g., meet on a quarterly basis)	GCC and CRPC
February to May 2021	Conduct initial scoping (among work group members and others as well) and background research for tools and case studies that can be included in the toolkit	GCC (schedule meetings with CRPC as needed for updates and informing GCC's strategic direction)
May to July 2021	Meeting between GCC and CRPC to discuss initial results and move towards planning for the toolkit's design and organization	GCC and CRPC
July/August 2021	Convene the second full meeting of the Planning Work Group to discuss strategic direction for the toolkit and tools and case studies identified; solicit feedback	GCC and CRPC
August to October 2021 (*this period will overlap with writing for the toolkit as things are approved)	Conduct additional research and finalize plans for the toolkit; confirm plans with CRPC	GCC

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August 2021 to March 2022	GCC drafts content for and builds out the toolkit; conduct regular check ins with CRPC and individual Work Group members, as needed	GCC
March/April 2022	Conduct peer review and testing of the toolkit; can also consider scheduling a third meeting of the full Planning Work Group	GCC and CRPC
May 2022	Launch toolkit; convene final meeting of the Planning Work Group; disseminate work	GCC and CRPC

COVER PAGE

Title: Can Meandering Paths Connect a Fragmented Planning System? Developing a regional governance structure to enable watershed planning in Southeast, Louisiana, inquiry study

Abstract: Louisiana's flat geography, proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, and rain events make it an environment that is susceptible to flooding, but that same geography presents few barriers to rapid expansion into flood prone areas. Major flooding in 2016 led policy makers to recognize that the vulnerabilities and inequities exposed by hurricanes Katrina and Rita extended inland, and that environmental risks from flooding were applicable beyond the coast. The Louisiana Watershed Initiative emerged to create a paradigm shift around floodplain management via the creation of regional governance bodies for watersheds. Regionalizing policy around flood hazards is a new approach in Louisiana where government has treated managing water as local planning problems, or discrete engineering problems.

Within a landscape of regulatory skepticism, we ask how might politically disconnected jurisdictions and communities with connected watershed challenges collaborate to develop an inclusive model for governing water, sharing resources, and achieving a collective vision?

Author information and bios:

Thomas Douthat researches how multi-jurisdictional systems adapt to social, economic, and environmental change through the lenses of law, planning and policy, and geo-spatial analysis. His work has involved diverse subjects ranging from watersheds to transportation, and spans both rural and urban areas. His research group is currently implementing plan content analysis, along with a novel Network Analysis in Plan Evaluation (NAPE) methodology, to help LWI understand the watershed planning system in Southern Louisiana, as well as approaches to visualize regional systems of land regulation. Dr. Douthat holds a J.D. from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law, and a PhD in City and Regional Planning from GATech, where his dissertation won recognition from ACSP in the field of international planning. **Author info: LSU College of Coast and Environment; 93 S Quad Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70803; Phone: 802.793.3442; Email: Tdouthat1@lsu.edu**

Manohar "Manny" Patole is the Co-City Fellow and Project Manager for Co-City Baton Rouge. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at NYU Tandon School of Engineering's Sustainable Urban Environments program, Planning Committee Member with the Municipal Arts Society of NYC, and serves on the American Planning Association Water & Planning Network Steering Committee. He served as an Excelsior Fellow with the Office of the Governor of the State of New York as a Data and Policy Analyst with the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Division of Planning (2016-18). Manny holds a Master of Urban Planning degree from NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and LLm/ME specializing in Water Governance and Conflict Resolution and Water Conflict Management from a joint University of Dundee's Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy & UNESCO's Institute for Water Education program. **Author info: Co-City Baton Rouge, NYU; 575 77 St. Brooklyn, NY 11209; Phone: 917.992.3659; Email: manny.patole@nyu.edu**

Rachelle Sanderson is the Regional Watershed Coordinator for Region 7 of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, which pursues a holistic approach to watershed management, one that goes beyond conventional mitigation measures and incorporates nature-based solutions. In this position, Rachelle combines her passion for science and climate justice by working with communities to incorporate local wisdom into planning efforts while growing capacity and knowledge of challenges and opportunities that increasing flood risk present. **Author info: Capital Region Planning Commission; 14734 S Harrell's Ferry Rd, Ste B Baton Rouge, LA 70816; Phone 816.830.3633; Email: rsanderson@crpcla.org**

CASE MEMO

Topics:

Fiscally Healthy Communities and Regions, Reduced Poverty and Spatial Inequality, Sustainable Land and Water Management

Timeframe: 2016 - 2021

Learning objectives:

- Understand the barriers to cross-jurisdictional collaboration, including historical socio-political, and cultural norms and/or narratives that inform policy
- Identify pathways for long-term regional funding of regional
- Identify opportunities to transform jurisdictional fragmentation into regional collaboration around watershed governance and planning
- Further understand the impact of current and future climate-induced flood risk to the region
- Identify explicit strategies for incorporating substantive and procedural equity into regional watershed governance and planning
- Understand pathways for research and community collaboration to be purposefully incorporated into regional watershed governance structures

Description of the problem: Louisiana's geographic position makes it home to one of the most dynamic coastal and riverine systems in the United States. It is where the combination of tributaries that comprise the Mississippi, Red, Sabine, Ouachita, and other smaller rivers meet and eventually flow into the Gulf of Mexico. These many systems have offered Louisianans, and the rest of the world, access to fresh seafood, navigable waterways, and the foundation for a tremendous culture built on our relationship with water and all of the rich things it brings. Road building and permissive development regulations have enabled the construction of vulnerable commercial building and housing stock with the highest rates of repeated-loss properties in the nation. This present reality's vulnerability to hazards may increase due environmental change via a combination of coastal subsidence, rainfall amounts over shorter periods of time, more intense hurricane seasons, and sea level rise as a result of climate change. The magnitude of this risk exposure for our built environment manifested itself in March and August of 2016 when 56 of Louisiana's 64 parishes were impacted by riverine flood events that occurred as a result of extreme rainfall amounts over short periods of time. With over 10 billion dollars in damages, many left out of their homes for months, and multiple short-, and long-term, disruptions to our lives, it was a wakeup call that Louisiana needed to reconsider development, infrastructure, building, and land use decision making systematically through the lens of future, and current, flood risk. The 2016 flooding laid bare enormous economic and racial inequalities and community vulnerabilities in our built environment. It also crystalized that the undeniable long-term threats to future economic growth and fiscal health of the state could not be addressed without new sustainable land and water management practices.

Two years later, Governor John Bel Edwards signed an Executive Order creating the Council on Watershed Management to begin this journey and within a few months he launched the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI). The purpose of this effort is to begin creating programmatic and policy alignment at the state and at the regional level through the development of regional watershed management entities. This initiative received \$1.2B in CDBG-MIT funds in 2020 to begin achieving this purpose.

Region 7 of the Louisiana Watershed suffered extensive damages as a result of the 2016 floods and is a hotspot for residential and commercial development. The full extent of flood risk is still being understood within the Region but it is clear that it exists on a spectrum from managed retreat in our high risk coastal and riverine environments to receiving areas where flood risk is much lower, and we must consider smart growth strategies as people migrate. Along this spectrum we must consider how to adapt to a future with more water.

Five years following the flood, regional stakeholders ranging from Parish (county) staffers to environmental non-governmental organizations, are working together to develop a long-term regional governance structure for watershed management and land use planning. Cross-jurisdictional watershed management in Louisiana exists around project development and gray infrastructure where there are formalized processes. What we do not have are formalized processes or governance infrastructure to create consistent land use development and planning practices that are cross-jurisdictional, cross-sectoral, and consider adaptation from a holistic perspective. Developing this infrastructure does not come without its fair share of challenges, and real questions exist about political will at both the local and legislative levels. Industry has played a major role in Louisiana's economic development and growth and developing regional entities that manage current, and future climate-induced, flood risk presents a dichotomy that is challenging to hold.

Louisiana has decades of experience in watershed management, meaning that there are also decades-worth of policy and programmatic decisions and barriers that have (1) led to attitudes of mistrust among community, public entity staffers, and decision-makers and (2) marginalization siloed, non-deliberative decision making, that has avoided engaging the broad range of actors, and their roles, as they relate to regional watershed governance. Mistrust of the government's role in the 1927 floods, which shaped narratives of flooding after Katrina, especially in the Lower 9th Ward, a predominantly Black neighborhood. It also feeds into a general skepticism towards regulation and public sector problem solving, which interacts with very real needs to attract investment and promote growth. As a result, flooding has been framed as a discrete engineering problem amenable to being solved by discrete projects, and not a "wicked" challenge to multiple governance and decision-making systems, including land use planning, that would frame agency for flood hazard planning as a much more central responsibility of local, regional, and state actors.

The historical, and current, socio-political environment of Louisiana presents a challenge in codifying regional watershed entities under the LWI. Practically, this means that pathways to identifying consistent long-term funding streams to support the work of the regional watershed bodies are still in development.

On our journey to better understanding water and how to live with it, it is obvious that our current, and future flood risk challenges are opportunities undercover. The meandering paths that we are embarking on to address flood risk through regional watershed governance creates the opportunity to develop a system, rooted in procedural equity, that then acts to work towards substantive equity. These understandings guide our vision of a future with less flood risk, healthier natural environments, and resilience practices that are responsive to the needs of our communities and to our evolving environment.

Key stakeholders: Frontline communities; Municipal, Parish (county), State, and Federal staffers; Municipal, Parish (county), State, and Federal elected officials; Environmental non-governmental organizations such as Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, The Mississippi River Delta Coalition, etc.; Local community-based and advocacy organizations; Local philanthropic institutions with environmental and climate portfolios; Colleges and universities.

RESOURCES TO WRITE THE CASE STUDY

- State-wide resources:
 - [Louisiana DOTD Senate Resolution 172](#)
 - [All Louisiana Watershed Initiative-related webinars](#)
 - [Louisiana Watershed Initiative Phase 1 Report](#)
 - [Louisiana Watershed Initiative Vision White Paper](#)
 - [CDBG-MIT Action Plan](#)
 - [All other Louisiana Watershed Initiative documents](#)
- Region 7 resources
 - [Region 7 Regional Steering Committee recorded webinars, after action memos, and meeting minutes](#)
 - [Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework](#)
 - Resilient affordable housing toolkit meetings and interviews (partnered effort with Georgetown Climate Center)
 - Meeting key outcomes and takeaways from outreach on the Region 7 Provisional Governance recommendation
 - Regional Capacity Grant Program Quarterly Reports
 - [Regional project inventory](#)
- Additional Resources
 - Louisiana State University
 - Plan analysis of all capital improvement, comprehensive, hazard mitigation, coastal zone management, and regional plans
 - Inland from the Coast
 - [LSU Ag Center & DOTD Louisiana's flood maps](#)
 - Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
 - [Master Plan Data Viewer](#)

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WRITING AND TEACHING WITH CASE STUDIES

The proposed case has *not* been previously published.

Dr. Douthat has extensive case study experience ranging from articles on co-management of natural resources in Puerto Rico, to his mixed methods comparative case-study research on collaboration networks in coffee land use systems that won ACSP/GPEIG Gill-Chin Lim Award for the Best Dissertation on International Planning, to work on equity-driven first source hiring practices in peer-reviewed journals. He has also incorporated case studies into teaching of environmental law and policy.

Manohar “Manny” Patole

- Dissertation focused on a case study of Lusaka (Zambia) - The Effect of Water Services Reforms on Peri-Urban Water Supply in Developing Countries: A case study of Zambia
- Published Paper on Localization of SDGs through Disaggregation of KPIs which focused on Sustainable Development Goal 6 as a case study
- Current Professor of Sustainable Urban Environments, Food-Energy-Water Nexus and Global Sustainable Cities at NYU's Tandon School of Engineering which all use case studies to illustrate examples of theories in practice

Rachelle Sanderson has incorporated case studies into her work in the philanthropic, governmental, and intergovernmental sectors. Additionally, she has published two papers (titles below) to the Journal of Operational Meteorology that focused on case studies for further analysis of rainfall-induced flooding.

- *A Preliminary Look at Using Rainfall Average Recurrence Interval to Characterize Flash Flood Events for Real-time Warning Forecasting,*
- *Utilizing Crowd-Sourced Rainfall and Flood Impact Information to Improve the Analysis of the North Central Gulf Coast Flood Event of April 2014*

Statement of the issue

As Louisiana's coastal landscape changes, increased exposure to flooding will alter the location of population and economic activity. Anecdotally, the most exposed “frontline” communities are already experiencing excess emigration. In some cases, migration may stress existing infrastructure and exacerbate social vulnerability, with uneven consequences across “sending” and “receiving” communities. Flood-induced migration involves complex causes and effects, but our understanding remains limited, in part due to the limitations of data on migration events. Our proposal will outline a contribution to the study of event-driven migration in coastal Louisiana that 1) overcomes limited geographic and temporal resolution of existing research through unique sources of microdata, 2) engages with interacting stressors of environmental and economic change, and 3) informs projections of migration in the Coastal Master Plan (MP), as well as adjacent projection efforts in coastal Planning and Development Districts (PDD) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO).

Business relocation and household migration are distinct but interrelated adaptive responses to environmental change. Studies of environment- and climate-driven migration show that access to economic opportunities can weigh more heavily on household migration decisions than perceived or experienced environmental threats. Better economic opportunities elsewhere can serve as “pull” factors, obscuring the effects of “push” factors like flood exposure. Over long time horizons, place-specific factors, exogenous shocks, and migration itself can reshape the location of economic opportunities. How these dynamics amplify or moderate long-term migration responses to flood events, and whether they have marginal or threshold (“tipping point”) effects, remains an open question.

Disentangling these complexities has traditionally been limited by the paucity of conventional data about migration at a geographic (i.e., sub-parish) and temporal scale suited to the context of coastal planning. Federal data on the origins and destinations of migrations is only available at the Parish level. This contrasts with more spatially granular data on flooding hazards (e.g., MP storm surge models, FIRMs, Flood Factor, or interpolated data about major storm intensities) and measures of social vulnerability at small-area census geographies (e.g., SOVI). To support the development of migration projections, we propose an approach to modeling storm and flood-related migration that leverages new sources of business and residential microdata.

Methods and approach

(1) The effects of past flood events on population migration and business relocation

Our study will explore the relationship between three dynamic aspects of change in coastal Louisiana: Discrete flood events and cumulative risk, changing locations of jobs and businesses, and household migration. What is the baseline spatial pattern of migration and economic activity in coastal Louisiana, and how has it changed? How does exposure to flooding alter baseline shifts in the location of households and employment?

To answer these questions, the study team will procure two longitudinal databases that allow for spatially granular tracking of businesses and households over time. For individuals, Infutor provides three decades of individual address history, and for businesses, the National Establishment Time Series (NETS) combines Dun & Bradstreet data into a longitudinal near-census of business establishments and relocations. While these data sets have a growing record of use in research publications, to our knowledge, they have not previously been applied to questions of climate-driven migration. Both data sets will allow the study team to analyze address-level microdata on relocations (households and businesses) from the last three decades. This extended time window is critical for capturing shifts in baseline patterns over time and ensuring a large-enough sample of flood events to study. Members of the study team have been in contact with both vendors, and estimated expenses for data licensing have been included in the preliminary project budget.

The ability to construct longitudinal data sets at a high degree of geographic and temporal resolution opens new possibilities for analysis and overcomes many of the traditional limitations of publicly available data in measuring migration events in small areas. We intend to explore multiple analytical approaches adapted from leading scholarship on the effects of environmental change and sea-level rise, including:

- Quasi-experimental econometric approaches that establish a counterfactual for exposure to flooding (e.g., difference-in-differences, synthetic control, matching) and longitudinal event-history models with a multi-level component.
- Machine learning methods for exploring the data set to uncover complex causal interactions among factors associated with individual migration events. We will use these results to build predictive tools based on Bayesian belief networks where outputs are probabilities for in- and out- migration, as well as migration to and from locations based on economic and environmental place typologies derived from our data. This approach will allow for translating both structured and expert-driven insights, as well as results from unsupervised machine learning, into predictive approaches.

The analysis will also tease out heterogeneous effects between flood exposure, economic change, and migration. For example, are discrete flood events or cumulative risk more closely related to changes in migration patterns? Is there a mix of marginal and threshold effects? For static exposures, we will use future flood risk and depth projections from CPRA and CRMS, USGS, and NOAA gauge data, and community level disaster declarations for past events.

The incorporation of expertise in GIS, spatial methods, and computer science, and access to super computing resources will allow us to use environmental and census data to explore patterns of commonalities among migration origin and destination areas. Relationships from the Bayesian belief networks could be used also to review area based population growth estimates used by CPRA, and other groups such as the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI), and coastal PDDs and MPOs.

(2) Implications for projecting future migration in a context of uncertainty

By illustrating uncertainty across different scenarios, the results will help to optimize the use of projections for the MP. Possible applications include:

- Comparing the findings with other existing approaches to projecting migration based on sea-level rise and related environmental hazards, such as those reviewed in Hauer et al. (2020).
- Applying results from Bayesian belief networks to current projections based on scenarios including estimated future environmental stressors.
- Ex post facto validation of out-of-sample predictive performance of Bayesian migration projections.

Finally, we will coordinate a group of regional planning stakeholders, with a focus on PDDs and MPOs in coastal Louisiana and in anticipated “receiving” regions. The purpose of stakeholder engagement is to ground-truth the findings of the research and to better inform future scenarios relevant to modeling population migration.

Findings and outputs

This project will leverage and support the growing efforts of the MP by assessing and developing tools for projecting population migration across Louisiana’s coastal zone. This approach, using novel micro data sets, will support population and asset growth scenarios associated with the Coastal Louisiana Risk Assessment (CLARA) model and complement the demographic work of Dr. Mathew Hauer, the 2019 *Toward Holistic Planning for Community Adaptation* workshop report, and other related efforts. It is anticipated that the outputs of this project would be able to provide scenario-based population growth estimates based on key drivers of migration, including social networks and economic opportunity that can be directly integrated with the CLARA model. This research will build on and support the existing work of the MP by:

- Providing suggestions for improvement of population growth scenarios in the CLARA model for future iterations
- Informing prioritization areas for nonstructural projects in tandem with scenario-based storm surge modeling
- Further understanding the complex drivers, and patterns, of population migration across coastal Louisiana for the purpose of better identifying strategic placement of restoration and structural projects

Additionally, this work could expand the scope of the MP, within the mission of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), to utilize this information to:

- Inform potential policy and economic drivers that may impact or influence coastal migration patterns resulting from the placement of CRPA-funded projects
- Utilize scenario-based modeling and planning efforts to further inform the efforts of other state agencies, related entities, and other state-led programmatic efforts to leverage the work of the MP when considering the build out of future infrastructure

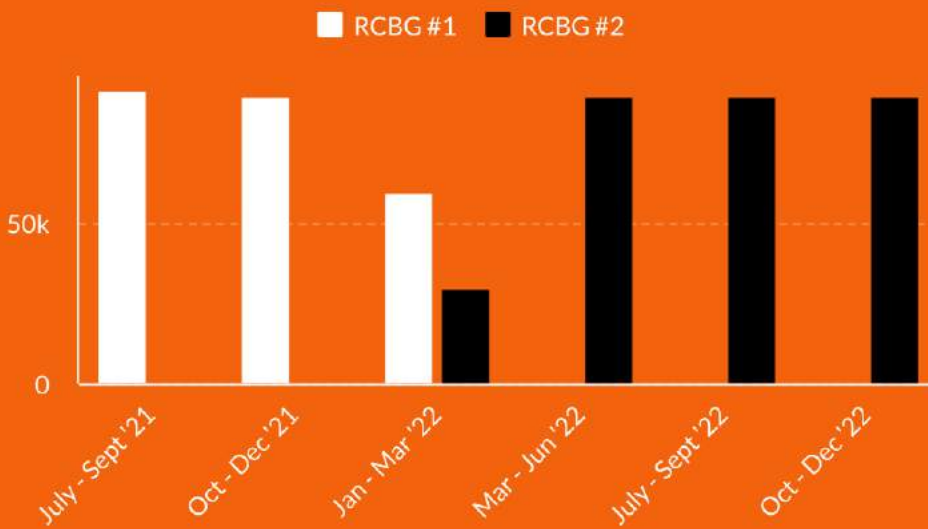
From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

THE VISION: Intentionally grow out the Region 7 LWI Program to successfully continue capacity building efforts while also implementing capacity enabling efforts related to support the mission, vision, and values of LWI and Reigon 7.



THE ASK

\$400,000 Between July 1, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2022



1.25

Additional staffers



\$200,000 +

Leveraged Funds



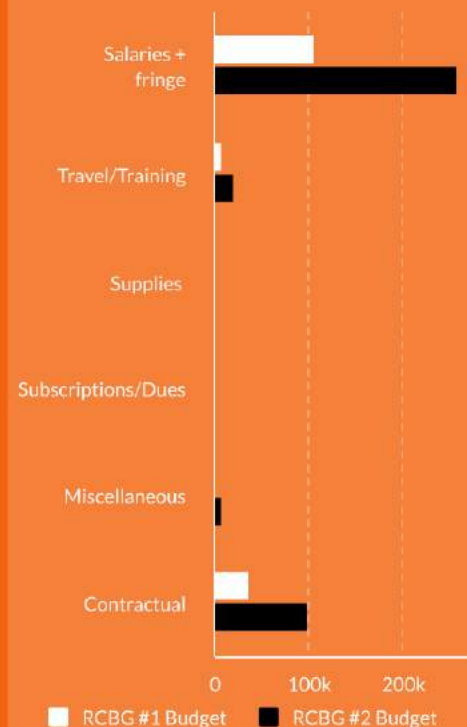
\$115,000 +

Funds pending

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES

- Raise for Watershed Coordinator
- Addition of 1 Climate Adaptation Planner Fellow and 20% of time for a planner/landscape architect and interns
- Funds to implement a water and climate based leadership growth and capacity building program
- Increased resources for travel and training
- Addition of subscriptions and dues category
- Addition of miscellaneous category (including parking and optional stipends for Transition Team)
- Additional funds for LSU to do capacity gap analysis

CHANGES IN YEARLY BUDGET

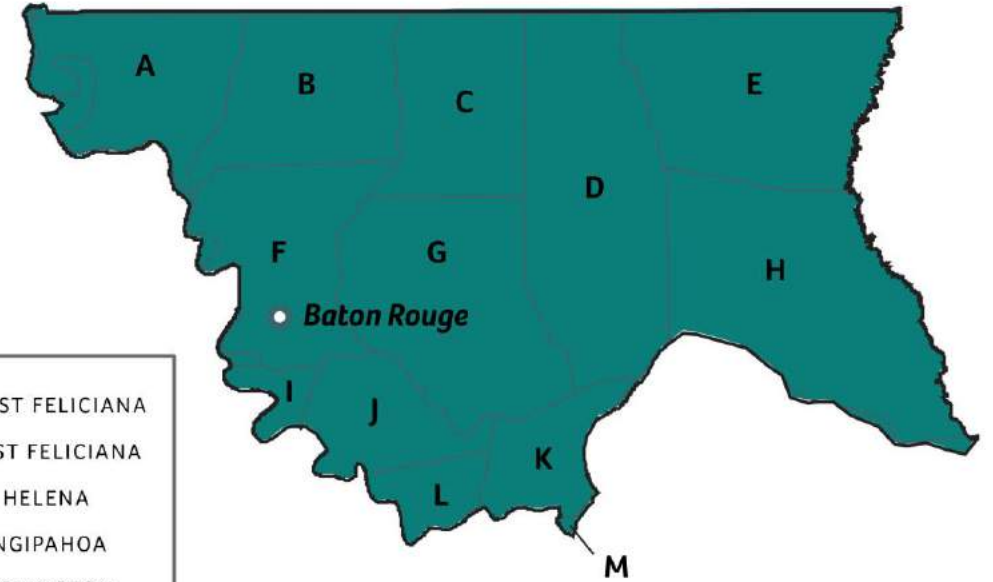


PROJECTION OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS





From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling



- A - WEST FELICIANA
- B - EAST FELICIANA
- C - ST. HELENA
- D - TANGIPAHOA
- E - WASHINGTON
- F - EAST BATON ROUGE
- G - LIVINGSTON
- H - ST. TAMMANY
- I - IBERVILLE
- J - ASCENSION
- K - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
- L - ST. JAMES
- M - ST. CHARLES

REGION 7



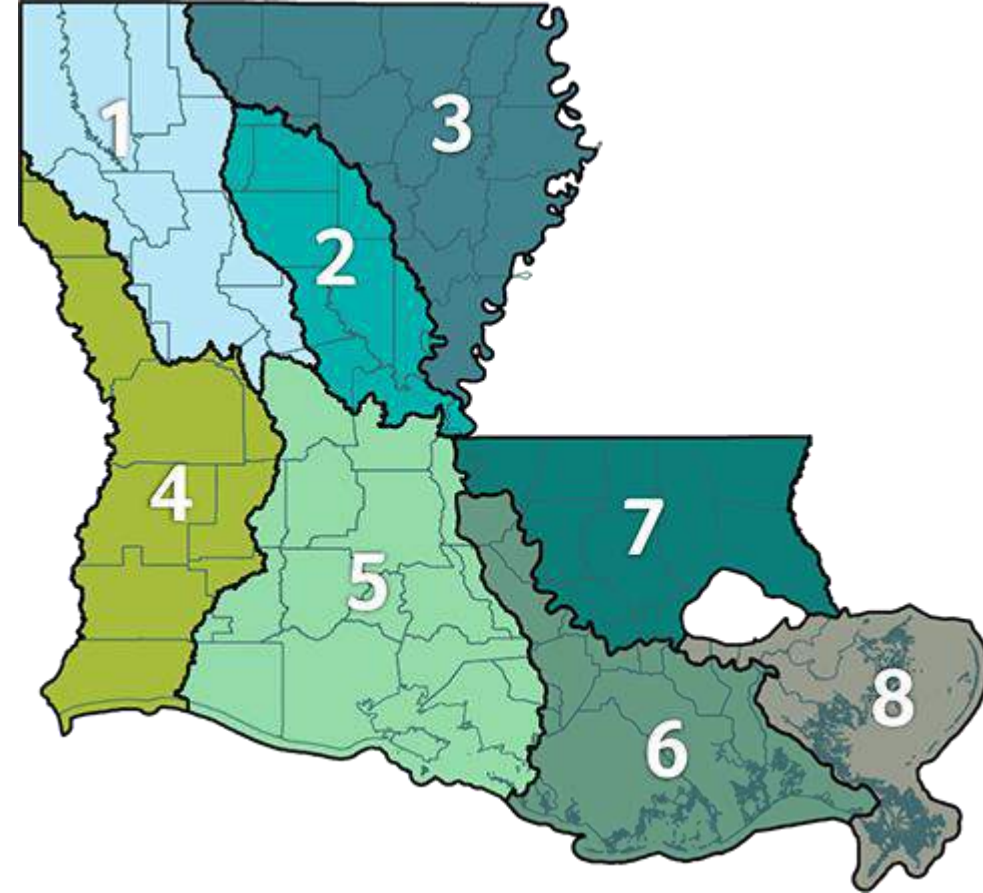
Vision & Values

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

Capital Region Planning Commission

REGIONAL HUB AND CLEARINGHOUSE

- Intentionally grow out the Region 7 LWI Program to successfully continue capacity building efforts while also implementing capacity enabling efforts related to support the mission, vision, and values of LWI and Region 7.
- **Regional values:** Advocating for equitable solutions and outcomes; Access; Culture; Community; Creativity and innovation; Diversity; Economy and environment; History; Living with water; Sustainable growth; Shared destiny; Quality of life





The Challenge

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

Capital Region Planning Commission



Capacity

- Can't fulfill all current asks/needs of the region (Washington Parish zoning code)
- Missed opportunities
- Complicated landscape dynamics
- Impacts from 2016
- 13 Parishes, 45 municipalities



Staffing

- Only one full-time staffer



Budget

- Exceeding current budget with regards to \$ spent on staff time
- **Without** additional staffing and capacity, we're spending down faster than anticipated
- Donating back overhead cost because we can't charge overhead





The Challenge

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

CURRENT MODEL: FOCUS ON
CAPACITY AND PROGRAM BUILDING





The Opportunity

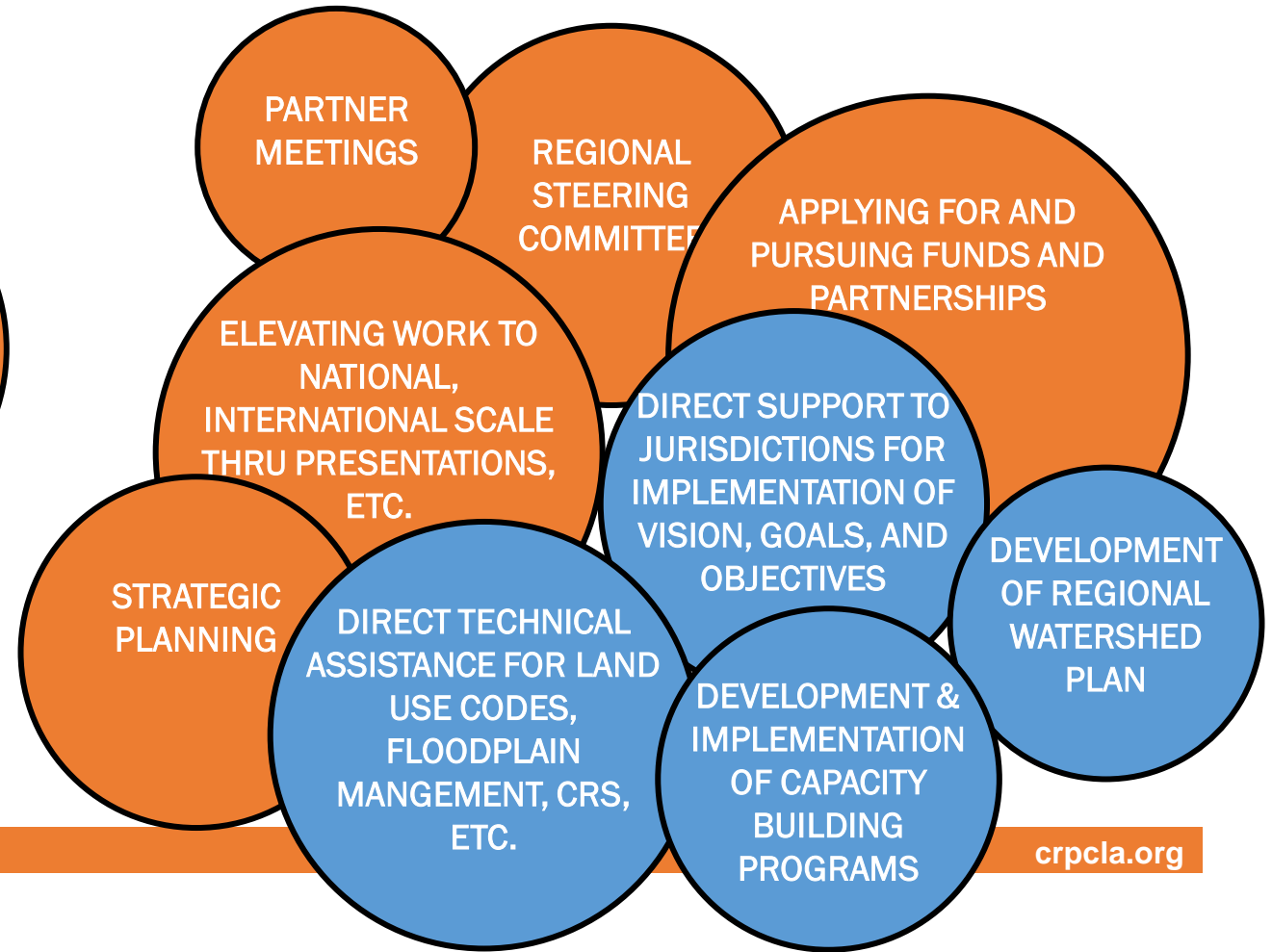
From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

Capital Region Planning Commission

CURRENT MODEL: FOCUS ON CAPACITY AND PROGRAM BUILDING



PROPOSED MODEL: CONTINUE CAPACITY AND PROGRAM BUILDING, INCORPORATE CAPACITY ENABLING





An Idea

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

- Transition to include capacity enabling work
- People are bought in and they're asking for this
- Grow the current work
- Continue to strive for national and international recognition of work to bring in additional resources

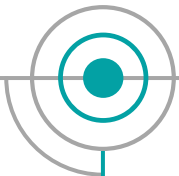


Gaining Traction

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

Beginning of partnership with GCC

May '20

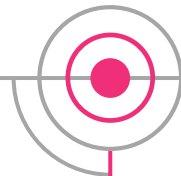


- Watershed coordinator hired
- First RSC meeting
- Partnership with LSU

Oct '20

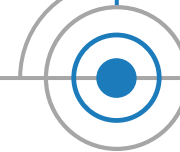


Dec '20



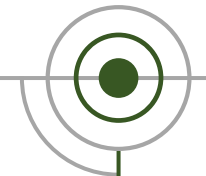
- Application for NOAA RESTORE funds
- Invited to participate in GCC Regional Collaborative Forum

Jan' 21



- Adoption of Provisional Governance Recommendation
- Presentation to Maastricht School of Management

Feb '21



- Launch of GCC partnership Planning Work Group
- Partnership discussion with EPA



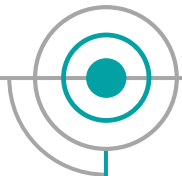
Gaining Traction

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

-
- Application for RESTORE COE funds
 - Launch Transition Team
 - Begin partnership discussions with Environmental Finance Centers

-
- AWRA panel discussion
 - At What Point Managed Retreat panel discussion
 - Final gov. rec & project rec.

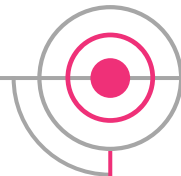
Mar '21



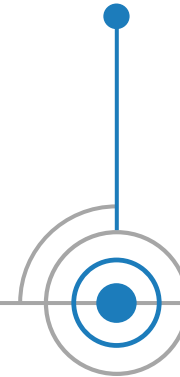
April '21



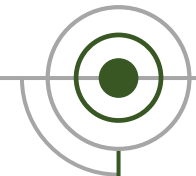
May '21



June –
July '21



End of '21



- Panel – APA Water and Planning Network
- Application for Lincoln Inst. Case Study
- Presentation to NYU water management class
- Invited to ISC Regional Collaboration for Equitable Climate Solutions
- Additional partnership discussions with LSU

-
- Panel discussion live streamed through WWOZ, Losing Home, Finding Home

-
- Documentation for operationalizing governance rec
 - Work towards standing up watershed body



Gaining Traction

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

Capital Region Planning Commission

80



Average % of RSC member affiliations represented at each RSC meeting

100



% of RSC meetings where quorum has been met

55



Average # of participants on RSC calls



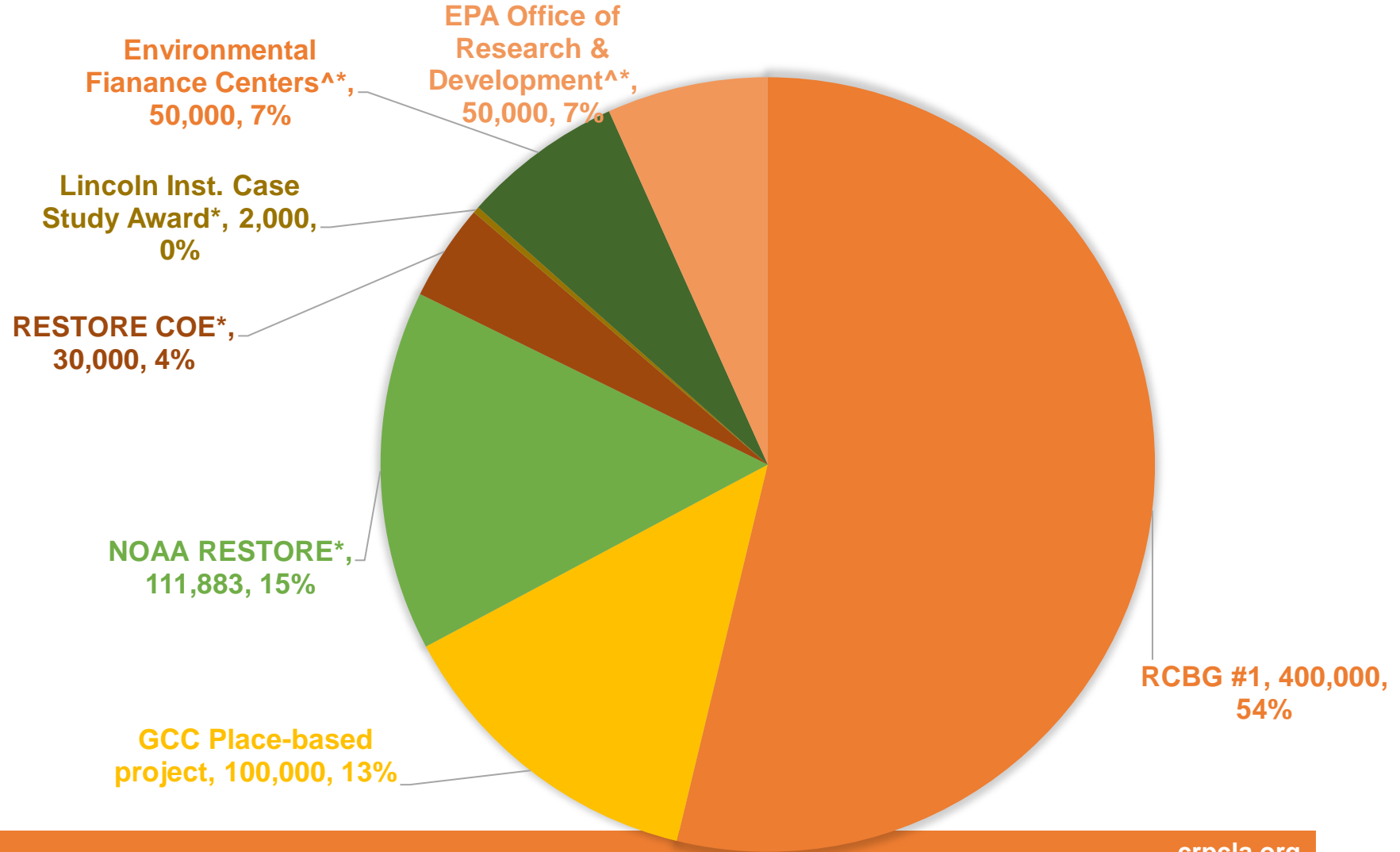
Gaining Traction

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

Capital Region Planning Commission

FUNDS RECEIVED,
LEVERAGED, AND
APPLIED FOR

TOTAL: \$743,883



*INDICATES PENDING

^INDICATES APPROX. VALUE



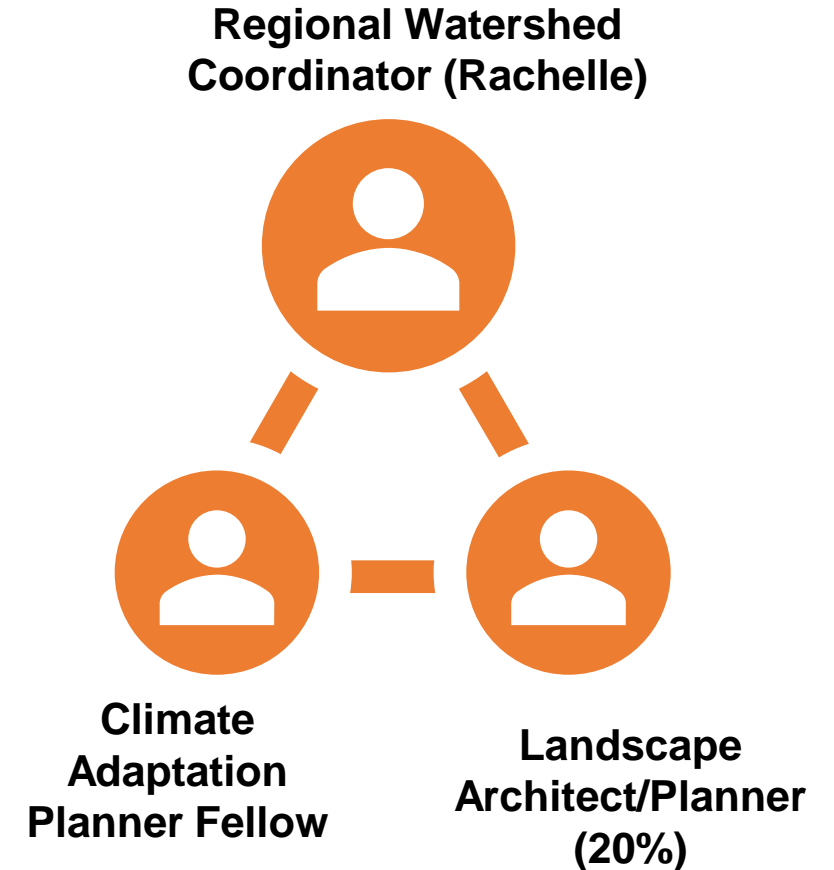
Our Strategy & The Team

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

Capital Region Planning Commission

Continue the incredible work we've been doing while also...

- Expanding to provide **on-the-ground direct assistance**
- Engaging in additional **strategic partnerships**
- Conducting additional **fundraising** (grants, etc.) activities
- Bringing **national and international attention to the work** by engaging in collaborative spaces and conferences
- **Training up** to do more effective work that is in alignment with our vision
- Investing in a **Transition Team**
- Avoiding **burnout**



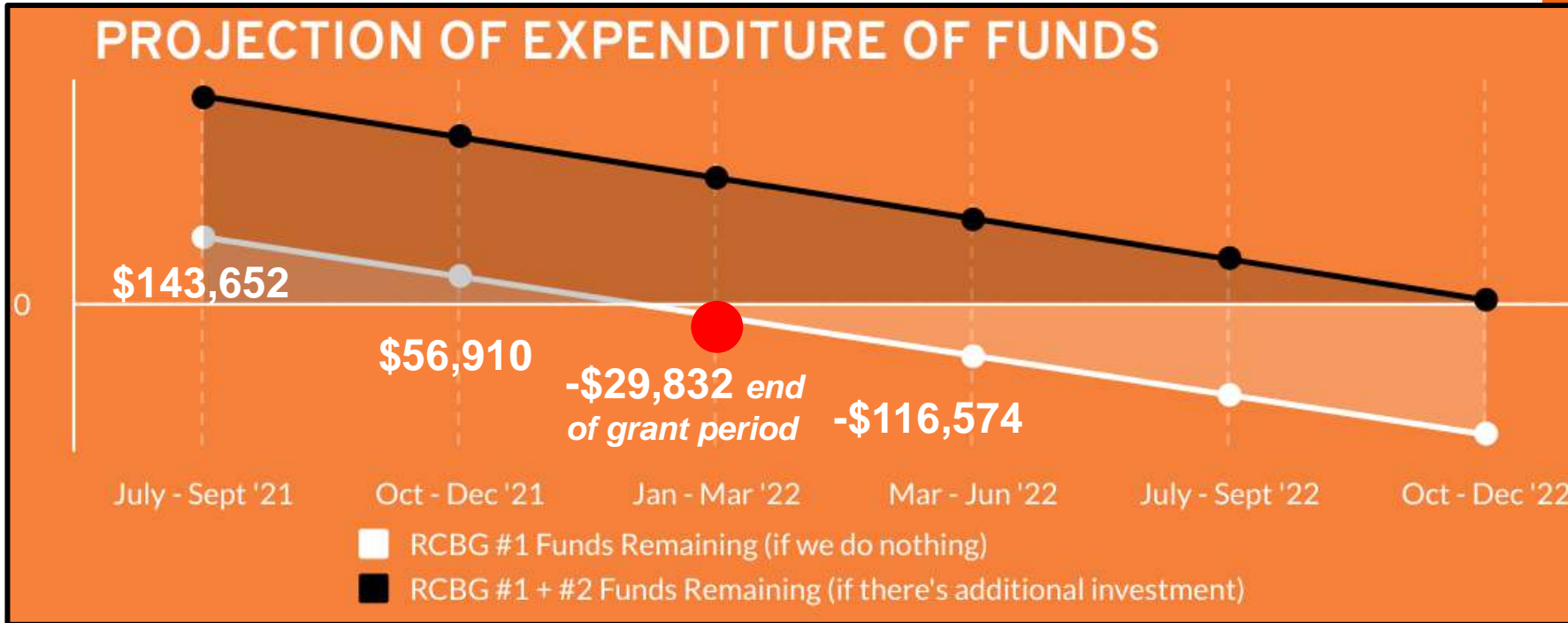


Finances

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

CRPC - LWI REGION 7 | March 25, 2021

PREPARED BY: RACHELLE SANDERSON



From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

THE ASSET: \$400,000 Between July 1, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2022

THE VISION: Intentionally grow out the Region 7 LWI Program to successfully continue capacity building efforts while also implementing capacity enabling efforts related to support the mission, vision, and values of LWI and Region 7.

- 1.25 Additional staffers
- \$200,000+ Leveraged Funds
- \$115,000+ Funds pending

REVIEW OF CHANGES

- Raise for Watershed Coordinator
- Addition of 1 Climate Adaptation Planner Fellow and 20% of me for a planner/landscape architect and intern
- Funds to implement a water and climate based leadership growth and capacity building program
- Increased resources for travel and training
- Addition of subscriptions and dues category
- Addition of miscellaneous category (including parking and optional stipends for Transition Team)
- Additional funds for LSU to do capacity gap analysis

CHANGES IN YEARLY BUDGET

CRPC Budget

Capital



Work Unique to Region 7

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

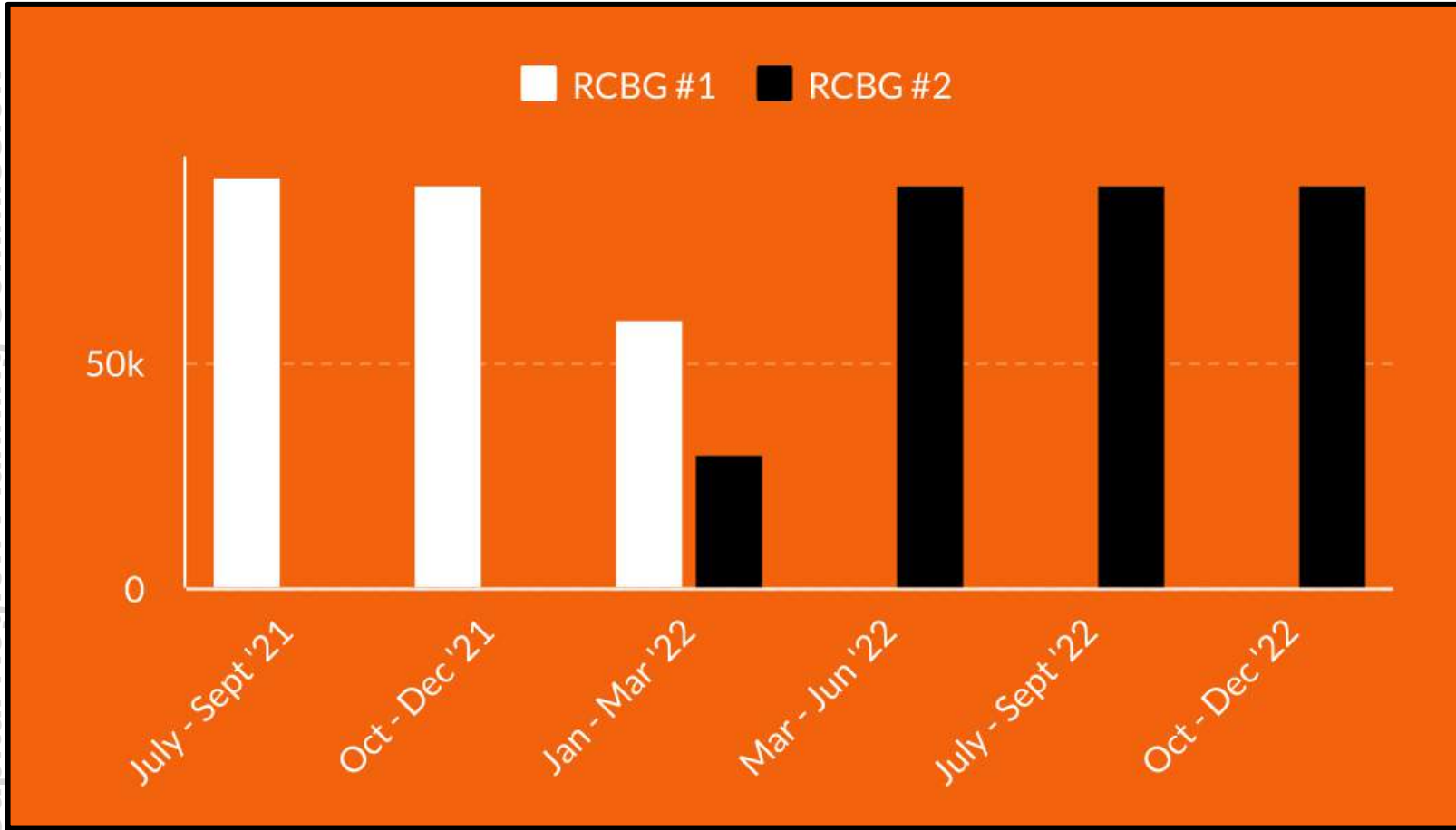
- Development of strategic partnerships
- Leveraging grants and work external to LWI
- Strategic weaving of other state-wide efforts (Climate Initiatives Task Force, Coastal Master Plan, etc.)
- Pilot region
- Regional research



Use of funds

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

Capital Region Planning Commission



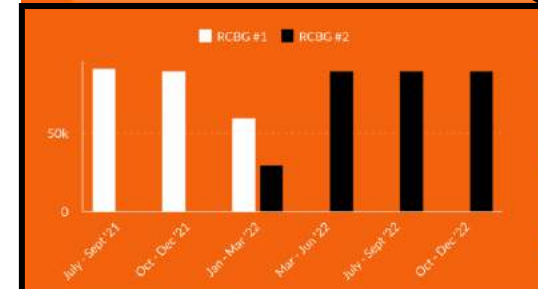
CRPC - LWI REGION 7 | March 25, 2021

PREPARED BY: RACHELLE SANDERSON

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

THE ASK
\$400,000 Between July 1, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2022

THE VISION: Intentionally grow out the Region 7 LWI Program to successfully continue capacity building efforts while also implementing capacity enabling efforts related to support the mission, vision, and values of LWI and Region 7.



1.25 Additional staffers

\$200,000 + Leveraged Funds

\$115,000 + Funds pending

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES

- Raise for Watershed Coordinator
- Addition of 1 Climate Adaptation Planner Fellow and 20% of time for a planner/landscape architect and interns
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- Addition of miscellaneous category (including parking and optional depends for Transition Team)
- Additional funds for LSU to do capacity gap analysis

CHANGES IN YEARLY BUDGET



PROJECTION OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS





Use of funds

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

CRPC - LWI REGION 7 | March 25, 2021

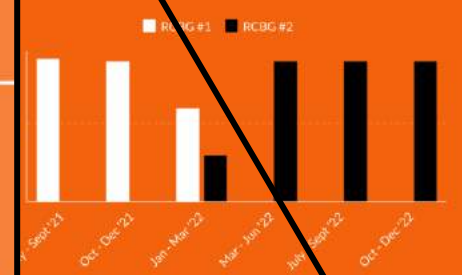
PREPARED BY: RACHELLE SANDERSON

PROJECTION OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS



From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

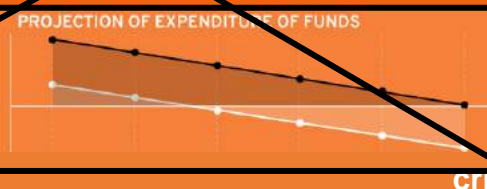
THE ASSESSMENT TOTALS \$400,000 Between July 1, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2022



THE VISION: Intentionally grow out the Region 7 LWI Program to successfully continue capacity building efforts while also implementing capacity enabling efforts related to support the mission, vision, and values of LWI and Region 7.

- 1.25 Additional staffers
- \$200,000 + Leveraged Funds
- \$115,000 + Funds pending

- #### REVIEW OF CHANGES
- Raise for Watershed Coordinator
 - Addition of 1 Climate Adaptation Planner Fellowship (20% of me for a planner/landscape architect and interim funds to implement a water and climate based leadership growth and capacity building program
 - Increased resources for travel and training
 - Addition of subscriptions and dues category
 - Addition of miscellaneous category (including parking and optional depends for Transition Team)
 - Additional funds from LSU to do capacity gap analysis



Capital



Use of funds

From Capacity Building to Capacity Enabling

\$400,000 over 18 months (July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022)

- Raise for Watershed Coordinator
- Climate Adaptation Planner Fellow
- 20% of time for a landscape architect/planner
- Increased resources for travel, training subscriptions, dues
- Support for Transition Team
- Two twelve-week interns
- Additional capacity-building gap analysis research and support

Capital

CRPC - LWI REGION 7 | March 25, 2021

PREPARED BY: RACHELLE SANDERSON



REGION 7

PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

The Region 7 Steering Committee (RSC) hereby offers the provisional recommendation that a long-term Watershed Coalition be formed within the current boundaries of Region 7 as shown in Figure 1 below. In the Regional Capacity Grant Building Program Policies and Procedures¹, Watershed Coalition is defined as, “A watershed coalition is a formalized entity based on regional watershed boundaries. Coalitions could be composed of representatives from existing political subdivisions and other stakeholder organizations such as PDDs [Planning and Development Districts]”, MPOs [Metropolitan Planning Organizations], and/or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), among others.” That document goes on to state... “as part of this Program and the LWI design process, coalitions will assume different governance structures for developing watershed management plans; aiding in the implementation of projects, programs and policies emanating from those plans; and improving the lives of residents and the success of businesses affected by those plans. Watershed coalitions are an expected outcome of the Initiative. These entities do not currently exist in the state of Louisiana.”

Within the following text Region 7 Watershed Body will be used instead of Watershed Coalition. As the RSC continues to build out the future governance structure, it is important to recognize that the final governance structure could be a coalition, commission, council, committee, or perhaps another option that best fulfills the implementation of potential responsibilities and authorities. These definitions can be found

in the glossary. Note, that the name is not determinative and there is variation and overlap among the definitions. At this point, the priority is to explain the functions and scope that the Region 7 Watershed Body envisions for the organization. The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region 7 Steering Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

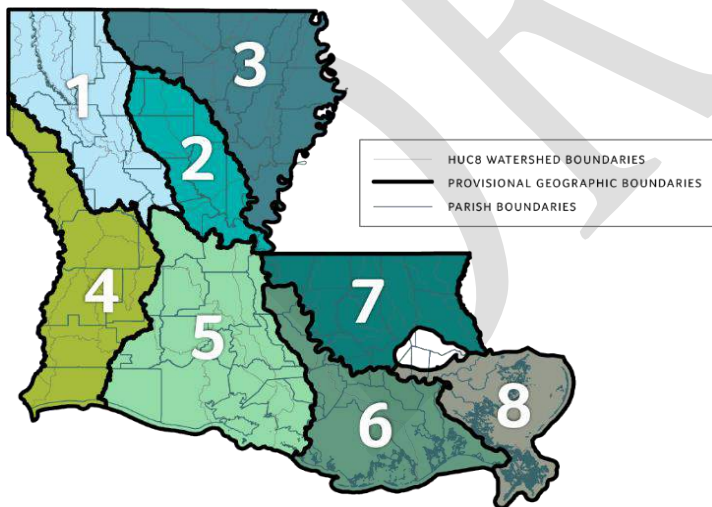


Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed

¹ <https://watershed.la.gov/assets/docs/RCBG-Policies-and-Procedures-6-9-20.pdf>



Recommendation Date & Vote

Date of recommendation of adoption was January 28, 2021. The vote tally was 12 for the recommendation and 2 against.

The following votes were recorded as in favor of the motion (Yay):

- *Ascension Parish (Yay)*
- *Iberville Parish (Yay)*
- *Livingston Parish (Yay)*
- *Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (Yay)*
- *Pontchartrain Conservancy (Yay)*
- *St. Charles Parish (Yay)*
- *St. Helena Parish (Yay)*
- *St. John the Baptist Parish (Yay)*
- *St. Tammany Parish (Yay)*
- *Tangipahoa Parish (Yay)*
- *Washington Parish (Yay)*
- *West Feliciana Parish (Yay)*

The following votes were recorded in opposition of the motion (Nay):

- *Amite River Basin Commission (Nay)*
- *Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge (Nay)*

Absent from the vote (non-attending) are the following Regional Steering Committee member affiliations:

- *East Baton Rouge Parish*
- *East Feliciana Parish*
- *St. James Parish*

REGIONAL SUMMARY

The Regional Watershed Region 7 Watershed Body should conduct regional watershed management and assist local entities with watershed planning, policy, project prioritization, and data/modeling in the following ways:

Overall goals within this context, as identified in the Region 7 Guiding Principles framework² are:

² [Region 7 Guiding Principles framework](#)



- Equitable flood risk reduction (climate and environmental equity)
- Address urban/rural split and resource disparity.
- Upstream/downstream coordination
- Identify funding sources (short and long-term)
- Regional planning efforts and the development of a comprehensive strategy that extends beyond individual political terms.
- Understand, anticipate, and incorporate the impacts of migration and population shifts due to acute (flood events) and chronic (land loss and rising seas) disasters within our strategies.

Planning and Development Guidance

- Provide technical assistance to local entities, who create floodplain management plans.
- Provide coordination for regional planning processes.
- State should adopt minimum development standards based on local environmental risk factors, based on regional input.
- Region will provide “recommended” development standards based on local environmental risk factors.
- Region should provide technical assistance to local entities regarding the impact of development standards.

Goals within this context, as identified in the Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework² are:

- Incentivize improved development standards and the enforcement of them.
- Consistent regulation and development standards.
- Development standards are enforced consistently.
- Build in resilience practices, planning and regulatory capacity at all levels of our local, parish, and regional offices.
- Update and develop preservation ordinances for the purpose of keeping floodplains and adjacent undeveloped land for flood storage capacity.
- Strategic placement of development across the region based on best available data and planning practices.
- Development of decision-making and support tools that support local government decision-making.
- Integrate flood risk information, data, and planning efforts with updates to codes, regulations, and ordinances.
- Provide examples and tools to update codes, regulations, and ordinances.
- Improve quality of decision-making.
- Key areas that provide significant flood storage, ecosystem, and other benefits are identified, and preserved.



Support for Projects

- Review and/or provide technical assistance on major projects as deemed appropriate by the future bylaws of the Region 7 Watershed Body.

Goals within this context, as identified in the Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework² are:

- Equitable buyout and elevation projects/programs. Find opportunities to provide matching funds.
- Retrofit already developed areas utilizing innovation and learning from best practices.
- Projects that reduce negative impacts downstream
- Projects that improve the natural function of the floodplain.
- Projects have multiple uses and co-benefits (ex: open space reserves that also serve as public recreation space).

Data and Modeling

- Models should initially be housed at the state-level and over time with support, capacity should be built at the regional level.

Goals within this context, as identified in the Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework² are:

- Use data (such as rain and river gauge network data and relative sea level rise and subsidence data) and develop models to give us visual representations of flood risk.
- Over time, data and models will be used for the purpose of project evaluation, scenario planning, and plan updates at the appropriate decision-making level.
- Collect and house data for model, project use, and more informed decision-making.
- Collect and consider traditional ecological and community data and information for planning efforts and decision-making.

Outreach and Engagement

- Provide opportunities for watershed-related outreach and education.
- Long-term capacity building from the region to public entities and citizens.



Recommended Authorities for the Region 7 Watershed Body

- Authority to review and/or provide technical assistance for regional projects.
- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies.
- Authority to oversee regional planning processes.
- Authority to provide support for technical assistance related to outreach and education efforts and train the trainer programs.
- Authority to receive, manage, and distribute funds from governmental, private, or non-profit sources, including the authority to set policy on how funds will be distributed.

ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTING THIS RECOMMENDATION

In order to successfully implement the recommendation above, the RSC recommends the following implementation steps:

Who staffs future efforts?

Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC) shall facilitate all meetings of the Region 7 Watershed Body and shall perform administrative functions related to the work of the Region 7 Watershed Body.

How will the future Region 7 Watershed Body be chartered?

Legislatively via a state commission, board, or agency.

How consistent are charters among regions?

All of the watershed bodies in the state should be authorized by a single charter that includes a list of standards and authorities identified by all regions, wherein each region is able to choose which standard or authority to implement and at what degree within individual Region 7 Watershed Body bylaws/regional charters.

Who should be represented?

The Region 7 Watershed Body should be composed of a mix of technical experts, elected officials (or their appointees), and citizens/organizations outside of government entities who represent citizens.

What is the State's role?

The Region 7 Watershed Body should have oversight by a State agency which provides consistency and state-level management.

How are regional boundaries defined?

The regional watershed boundaries should be recognized or approved by a State agency, board, or program.



What options are available to the Region 7 Watershed Body for funding?

The Region 7 Watershed Body should have the ability to obtain external funding and maintain stable local funding.

What is the Region, and State's, role in drafting legal elements that reflect these recommendations?

The state should lead the effort in drafting the legal elements that reflect these recommendations while the regions collect feedback on provisional recommendations and the regions should be kept aware of continued progress.

GLOSSARY

Throughout RSC meetings various names have been used to describe what the future watershed body might be. It has become clear that doing this may create confusion. Below are some definitions of examples of definitions for a coalition, commission, committee, and council that are meant as starting points for how we might define the Region 7 Watershed Body moving forward. Please note that there are no explicit broad definitions of these items and that usually the entity defines the term for itself through documentation.

Coalition → A coalition is a group of individuals and/or organizations with a common interest who agree to work together toward a common goal. Coalitions may be composed of a wide range of actors and may be comprised of elected officials, and non-elected officials.³

Commission → Generally created by legislature or executive branch with a specific mandate. In other words, there is a formal written warrant granting the power to perform various acts or duties.⁴ Commissions are appointed by a government body and may be comprised of both elected and non-elected officials.

Committee → A body of persons delegated to consider, investigate, take action on, or report on some matter. ⁵ Committees are a decision-making body within a larger organization and report back.

Council → Group elected or appointed as an advisory or legislative body. This may also be an assembly or meeting for consultation, advice, or discussion.⁶

³ <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/assessment/promotion-strategies/start-a-coalition/main>

⁴ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/commission>

⁵ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/committee>

⁶ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/council>