

26-Mar-21
25-Jun-21
7
N/A – Planning Activities
Planning, HCDA Sec. 105(a)(12)
171.560.11

RCBG PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT

REPORTING CONTACT INFORMATION

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WATERSHED COORDINATION METRICS

HOURS OF WORK PERFORMED (by Watershed Coordinator)	488.5
NUMBER OF MEETINGS FACILITATED	(1) April 22 RSC meeting (2) May 25 RSC meeting (3) June 29 RSC meeting (4) Provisional governance recommendation outreach meetings, see narrative report (5) May 19 Municipal WaterOpps Workshop (6) May 20 Community WaterOpps Workshop
ATTENDANCE PER MEETING	(1) April 22 RSC meeting, 58 people (2) May 25 RSC meeting, 50 people (3) June 29 RSC meeting, approximately 50 people (4) Provisional governance recommendation outreach meetings, see narrative report (5) May 19 Municipal WaterOpps Workshop, 10 people (6) May 20 Community WaterOpps Workshop, 12 people
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, FEMA
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)	1
NUMBER OF MEETINGS WITH LOCAL OR REGIONAL OR REGIONAL PUBLIC OFFICIALS	8
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	2 see attached comments from Amite River Basin Commission

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 2 (04/01/2021 – 06/30/2021) 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, except for the June 29, 2021 meeting, listed below were hosted virtually on Zoom.

Regional Steering Committee

APRIL 22, 2021 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (RSC) MEETING

This meeting focused:

1. An update from LSU on their social network and plan analysis
2. Round 1 regional project selection process and determined regional project selection process

MAY 25, 2021 RSC MEETING

This meeting focused on feedback on the governance recommendation and gathering additional feedback

JUNE 29, 2021 RSC MEETING

This meeting focused on:

1. Feedback on the governance recommendation
2. Voting on the governance recommendation. The final recommendation that was adopted is attached.

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

Similar to previous report Watershed Coordinator Community calls continue as 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 and regional project selection across the state. Since the last report, the Watershed Coordinators in Regions 5 and 8 have been leading efforts on developing a shared Google folder for the watershed coordinators, a list of potential funding resources and more.

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.

Regional Governance Recommendation

PROGRESS

On June 29, 2021, the Regional Steering Committee unanimously adopted the Region 7 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.

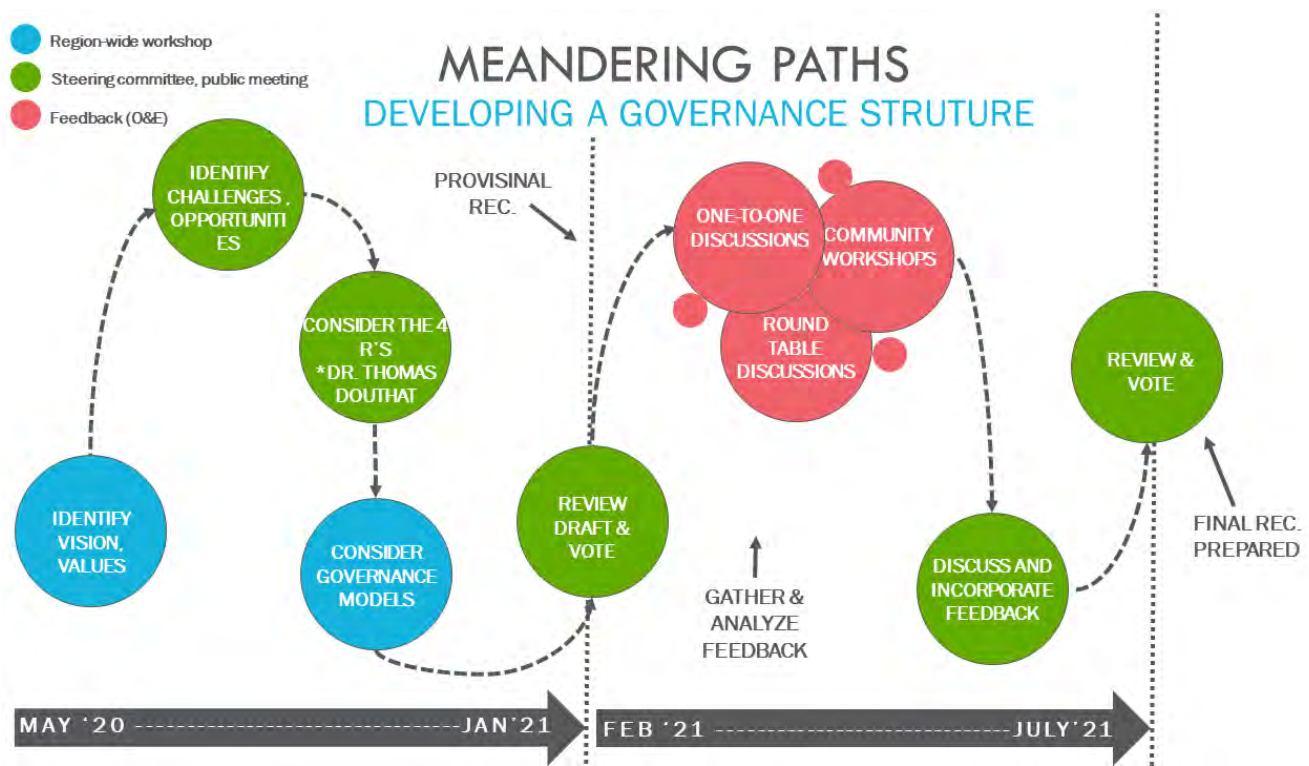


Figure 1: Map of the development of the Region 7 Provisional Governance Recommendation presented March 25 to APA's Water and Planning Network.

OUTREACH MEETINGS ON PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

Figure 1 shows an outreach and engagement period around the provisional governance recommendation. Below are the meetings that were specific to gathering feedback on the recommendation that have occurred as of June 30, 2021. Since February over 120 individuals have taken part in providing feedback on the provisional governance recommendation across Region 7.



MEETINGS THAT HAVE OCCURRED:

Affiliation	Number of participants	Meeting Date	Participant description
Tangipahoa Parish	5	3/2/2021	Parish President, Council Members, Parish staffers
St. Helena Parish	7	3/2/2021	Police Jury President, Police Jury Members, Police Jury staffers
Livingston Parish	2	2/8/2021	Parish staffers
West Feliciana Parish	2	2/22/2021	Parish staffers
Amite River Basin Commission	2	2/23/2021	Executive Director and Legal Counsel
Greater Baton Rouge Home Builders Association	1	2/8/2021	Executive Director
St. John the Baptist	4	3/17/2021	Parish President, CAO, Parish staffers
DEQ	4	3/19/2021	Division lead and staffers
Ascension	3	3/22/2021	CAO and Parish staffers
The Water Institute of the Gulf	4	3/31/2021	Division lead and staffers
Iberville	2	3/31/2021	Finance director and Parish staffer
St. Tammany	2	3/23/2021	Parish President and Parish staffer
Town of Livingston	1	4/6/2021	Mayor
Baker	2	4/15/2021	Mayor and Staffer
Gonzales	2	4/8/2021	Mayor and Staffer
Denham Springs	2	4/15/2021	Mayor and Staffer
Washington	12	4/13/2021	Parish Council Members and Parish staffers
GOCA	2	3/19/2021	Chief Resilience Officer and policy advisor
Livingston Parish Drainage Committee	11	5/12/2021	Drainage Committee members
East Baton Rouge	3	5/5/2021	Council members and Parish staffers
East Baton Rouge	3	5/4/2021	Council members and Parish staffers
St. Charles	2	4/14/2021	Parish President and Parish staffer



Municipal WaterOpps Workshop	10	5/19/2021	Municipal mayors, staffers, Parish staffers
Community WaterOpps Workshop	12	5/20/2021	General public
St. James	5	5/20/2021	Parish President and Parish staffers
Tangipahoa Watershed Committee	9	3/2/2021	Parish President, Council Members, Parish staffers
East Feliciana	1	6/17/2021	Parish staffer
Amite River Basin Commission (Full Commission)	14	6/8/2021	ARBC commission

Regional Project Selection Process

The Regional Steering Committee voted to adopt the State’s process for project selection during the April 22, 2021 RSC meeting. This means that they’ll select projects based on the highest-ranking project that is below the \$6M threshold.

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.

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

Status: Work is underway

- **Funds leveraged:** \$100,000 through a grant to GCC from the Doris Duke Foundation
- **Duration:** January 2021 – April 2022



- **Activity:** Development of a hybrid strategy and visioning tool that explores the intersection of affordable housing and flood risk by considering (1) rural housing (2) urban housing and (3) nature-based solutions. This work is being done with a planning work group that is outlined in the 2021 quarter 1 report.

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

Status: Scope is being finalized, advisory group has been set and will meet summer 2021

- **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](#)

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

Status: Work is underway

- **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:** 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. A survey has been developed that will be sent out to Region 7 stakeholders to determine what the most applicable workshop topics will be.

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

Status: Awarded June 29, 2021

- **Funds awarded:** \$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.

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION(\$300,000)

Status: LOI submitted, pending feedback

The project team submitted an LOI in late June for this funding opportunity titled, Linking Coastal-Watershed Resilience to Urban Reinvestment: Build Baton Rouge and Louisiana Watershed Initiative Region 7. This team includes LSU Department of Environmental Sciences, LSU Center for River Studies, Build BR, Capital Region Planning Commission, and Georgetown Climate Center. Text from LOI that was submitted can be found below...

Background

Climate change will increase flooding across the Southeastern US, where heavy rainstorms have increased 27% since the 1950's (EPA 2016), and where rainfall anomalies such as the 2016 Louisiana flood event are expected to become more frequent (van der Wiel et al. 2016, NOAA 2021). Louisiana is at risk due to its flat geography, low soil permeability, and interactions between coastal and riverine flooding. Catastrophic flooding events have caused massive population displacements. Relocated communities experienced haphazard responses and poor environmental management within the "receiving communities" (i.e. where people went in response to coastal hazards, Levine et. al., 2007, Birch and Carney 2019, LA OCD 2019, Li and Spidalieri 2021, Spidalieri and Bennett 2020).

In greater Baton Rouge, LA, a "receiving community" as illustrated by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina (Levine et. al., 2007), new housing investment in sprawling areas coincided with disinvestment in the urban core, exacerbating racial segregation (Colten, 2017, Smith, 2020). The duality of disinvestment and sprawl affect the health and wellbeing of residents (Valasik et al. 2019, De Jesus Crespo, et al. 2021, Fitzpatrick, 2021), contributing to self-perpetuating cycles that exacerbate existing inequalities.

Legacy urban neighborhoods, including those in Baton Rouge, historically concentrate in lower hazard zones, have high locational efficiency (i.e. low housing+transportation costs, CNT, 2021), and have high rates of vacancy and abandonment. These elements provide an opportunity to link urban economic redevelopment to climate resilience, benefitting people of color and low income communities.

Through this research we will evaluate strategies for promoting urban revitalization synergistically with flood protection in the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) Region 7, using the "Land Banks" of East Baton Rouge Parish (EBRP) as a focal program, and focusing on the interconnections between unplanned urban development, sprawl, inland flooding and urban blight.

Approach

The LWI, launched by executive order after the 2016 floods, seeks to apply a holistic watershed strategy for flood mitigation across the state. Watersheds are unique common pool resources (Kerr, 2007) and their management intersects with property rights and land development in urban areas. The idea of common pool resource management has long been part of environmental policy literature (Ostrom, 1990



& 2012, Douthat, 2008), and also has inspired consideration of the city as “an urban commons” or Co-City (Ione and Foster, 2016). In a watershed-urban commons perspective, mapping exercises can guide conversations about reevaluating land development needs. We propose to use existing data, and highfidelity hydraulic & hydrological modeling to create parcel level maps that classify flood protection value, and urban revitalization value. Parcel classification will be conducted across rural to urban gradients within focal watersheds, including the EBR Land Banks. This approach will demonstrate strategies for optimizing growth as a function of locational efficiency and accessibility, while minimizing growth in hazardous areas or areas with high flood protection value. We will also compile legal, planning, and policy tools aimed at addressing inland flooding, population transitions, green infrastructure, and urban revitalization, to inform actionable management alternatives.

Focal Program

We will focus on EBRP’s Land Bank, a program to acquire vacant/abandoned/deteriorated (VAD) properties and return them to use in alignment with community needs. The land bank is administered by Build Baton Rouge with whom we will partner.. The mapping of accessibility, green infrastructure potential, and hazards for all parcels in the LWI Region 7 watersheds, will provide information to plan for revitalization and storm management purposes, and for decisions about where to invest scarce public resources. Changes to flood insurance rates will likely occur in 2021 making this more pressing (CRSb, 2021).

Focal Community and Links to Equity

The study region is home to a large percentage of low income communities of color, that experience frequent flooding (LWI 2021, Tate et al., 2021, Deria et al., 2020), and urban blight (Valasik et al. 2019, De Jesus Crespo, et al. 2021). Because of historical divestment and current inequitable resource allocation people of color tend to have fewer resources to prepare for and respond to these impacts, and may see the greatest benefits from housing strategies that channel new growth into areas of low hazards and maximize green infrastructure for flood mitigation, potentially creating greater equality of benefits and access to ecosystem services, and revitalized urban centers.

NOAA RESTORE SCIENCE PROGRAM FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: PLANNING FOR ACTIONABLE SCIENCE (\$112,000)

Status: pending

The 2020 Quarter 3 and 4 reports mentioned this funding opportunity, so the following information is meant to serve as an update. Since the submission of the quarter 3 report, CRPC worked in coordination with Louisiana’s Office of Community Development and Department of Environmental Quality, LSU’s Colleges of Coast and Environment and Department of Agricultural Economics, and Pontchartrain Conservancy to submit a full proposal for approximately \$112,000 over 12 months on December 15, 2020. The title of this proposal is Incorporating co-benefits and costs to coastal hazard mitigation. It is anticipated that awardees will be notified May of 2021. The abstract for the submission can be found below.

“Louisiana has an abundance of natural resources including fisheries, oil and gas, and navigable waterways. One thing that these natural resources have in common is water. Water is the natural resource that when managed can lead to economic stability, or instability, depending on the quantity and quality of it. The natural resource decision that this



proposal focuses on is related to watershed management project selection for round 3 of projects in the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI). LWI stemmed from an executive order by Governor Edwards that charged five state agencies with coordinating statewide flood risk management efforts through a regional watershed approach, centering around cross-jurisdictional decision-making. The state's watersheds are now organized around and grouped into eight identified watershed regions charged with creating regional governance models, watershed plans, and recommendations for selecting and prioritizing regional watershed management projects between 2021 and 2026, although the intention is to create decision-making and institutional structures that last much longer. This proposal focuses on informing the third round of watershed management project selection in winter - spring 2026 as the natural resource decision. This will be done by the creation of research and development and implementation plans that will, if funded at a later date, inform the creation of a watershed-informed benefit cost framework that will inform, and reduce uncertainties in, the third round of watershed management project selection. The rationale for selecting this decision is threefold (1) the current project application evaluation criteria (PAEC) are limited by the ability of current tools to holistically consider the range of benefits, including variables and costs related to water quality and the impacts it has on quality of life, recreation, commercial fisheries, and property values – all of which are critical aspects of Region 7's economy. (2) The timing of the Region 7 Watershed Plan and a series of project decision funding rounds allows the project team to develop a tool that iteratively incorporates lessons learned from the previous two rounds of project selection for the purpose of reducing uncertainty in the third round of watershed management project selections. (3) by trialing this tool in Region 7, there will be an opportunity to test the tool during round three and to adapt it within the period of the grant for the use of additional natural resource decisions with regards to planning, projects, and policy beyond 2026. The objectives of the project are to (1) identify priorities within a benefit-cost decision-making tool for the purpose of watershed management (2) identify how the inclusion of these priorities may have shifted the selection process for the first round of project selections (3) identify data, resources, and other information that may inform the integration of priorities in the tool, and (4) create research and development and implementation plans incorporating items 1-3. These objectives will be met through a series of planning workshops with local natural resource managers and others who are familiar with water-based resources and how the management of water may affect ecosystems, the economy, the environment, and communities.”,000. We will pursue the write-up of a full proposal if the review team provides a positive review of the LOI.

RESTORE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE LOI (\$300,000)

Status: pending

The 2021 quarter 1 report mentioned this funding opportunity. The project team submitted an application titled, Past and future migration in coastal Louisiana: Modeling the impact of flood exposure and economic change with microdata on households and businesses.”

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES & KRESGE FOUNDATION REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR EQUITABLE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS (RCECS) PILOT COHORT

Status: Work is underway, workshops to take place in August

Region 7 was invited to participate in and create a team of 4-6 individuals for the RCECS pilot cohort. More on the program below...



“Communities of color have faced and will continue to face the worst impacts of climate change due to systemic injustices. It is these communities that should inform our climate solutions. The goal of the RCECS initiative is to bring together racially diverse, cross-sector teams to identify and advance regional climate goals while ensuring equity is a central component of planning and implementation. As participants in this cohort, RCECS teams will have opportunities to learn from experts and each other and will also be able to build relationships with others engaged in this important work both locally and nationally. The RCECS pilot will be a set of three team-training sessions. Through this robust curriculum, participants will walk out with the tools needed to build positive and equitable relationships between their communities and/or their institutions, as well as the knowledge and resources needed to support the power and agency of Black and Brown communities working to overcome the challenges of climate change.

Areas of focus for these sessions include:

- DEI, Equity, and Antiracism
- Community Engagement
- Government Accountability
- Systems Thinking
- Non-traditional Data Methods
- Equitable Scenario Planning”

PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEES/TASK FORCE

- Climate Initiatives Task Force
- Georgetown Climate Center and LCG’s Regional Climate Collaboratives Forum
- Network of Networks
- The Water Collaborative

Elevating Work to National/International Platforms

ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED

- **Status: pending.** American Water Resources Association Fall Conference, What do we do when there is too much water to wrap our heads around? Find another way to think about it.
- **Status: confirmed, will present July 2021.** 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.
- **Status: not selected.** At What Point Managed Retreat, A Journey of Uncertainty: Developing a Regional Watershed Governance Structure

PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

- **June 4:** State of the Coast, Science and Planning at the Watershed Scale
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJ9DW48ruGs&list=PLntIUwrTG_-zc4vxFWuDJJ-s2Cfj26s-O&index=60



- **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
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWhKPPSJtjM>

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PURSUED

- **Status: confirmed, will be presented at AWRA's November conference.** American Water Resources Association Ivan J. Johnson Young Professionals Award awarded to Rachele Sanderson, Regional Watershed Coordinator.
- **Status: not received. 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. Lindsey Lamana, will defend her thesis July 20. There will be a presentation through the LWI network to talk about the findings of his work and what it



means in the context of LWI. A short report of findings is anticipated by the next quarterly update.

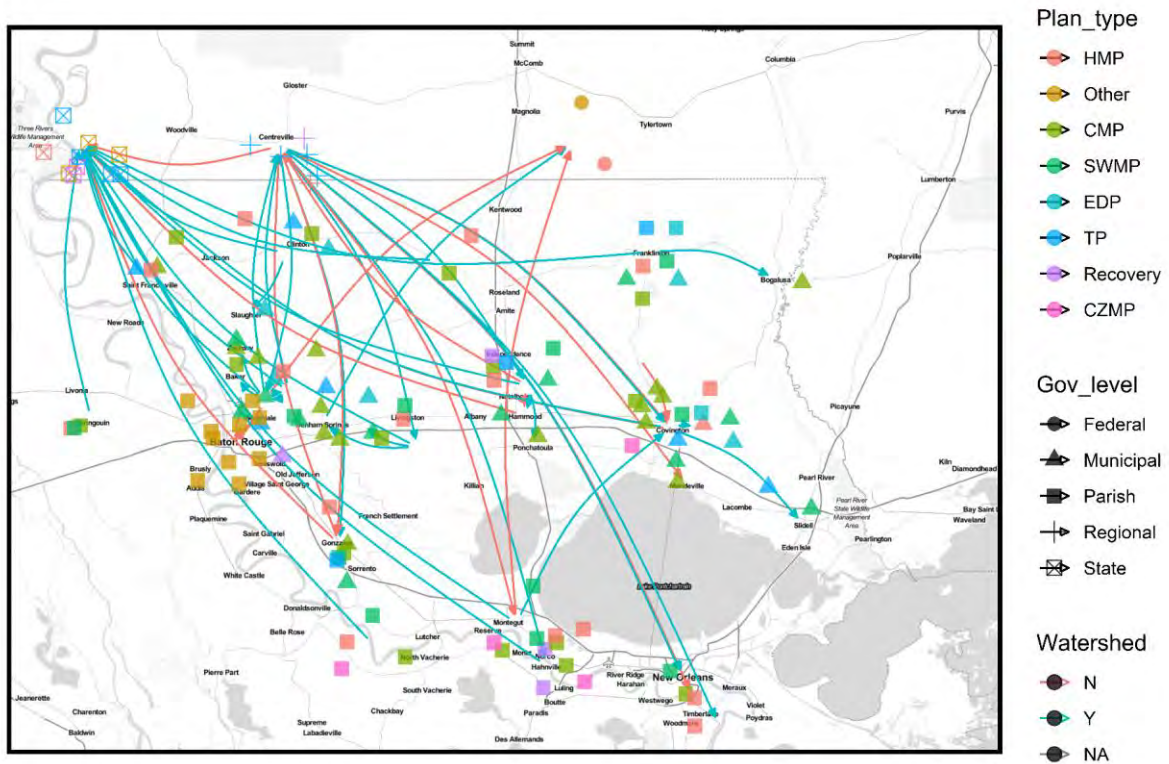


Figure 2: A network map of connected plans based on initial analyses. This map specifically shows that there is vertical integration of local plans through federal, regional, and state governments.



Actor-Plan Participation Network - Local Government Organizations and Plans

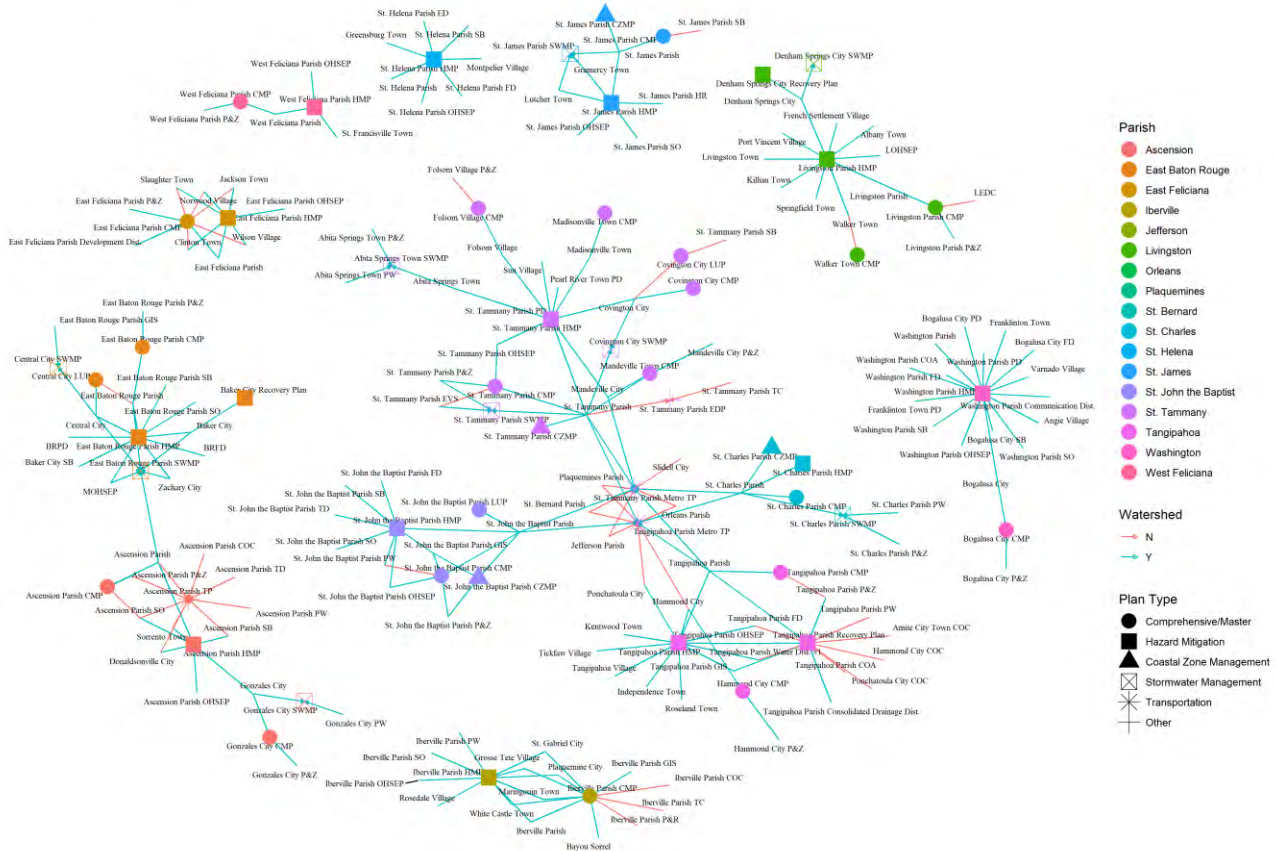


Figure 3: A map of actor-plan participation networks. This map clearly shows that when vertical alignment (i.e., brokers, like state, regional, federal actors) are removed, that horizontal integration (intra-jurisdictional collaboration and coordination) substantially decreases.

SUBDIVISION CODE EVALUATION

Work this quarter has focused on ordinance interpretation, mapping of policies geospatially, and determining next steps for the communication of data.

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
- Collaboration through GCC Planning Work Group
- Collaboration with UNO-CHART on mapping activities
- Resource Building Activities:



- Restore Act Grant Research Proposed with Data Center, CRPC
- Gulf Research Program Proposal

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?

Mid-May Flood

Between May 17 and May 18, a slow moving series of thunderstorms produced over a foot of rainfall in areas across south Louisiana, including areas within Region 7. Hundreds of individuals had to be rescued from high flood waters across the state and the full extent of damage is still being understood.

Rainfall on May 17-18, 2021

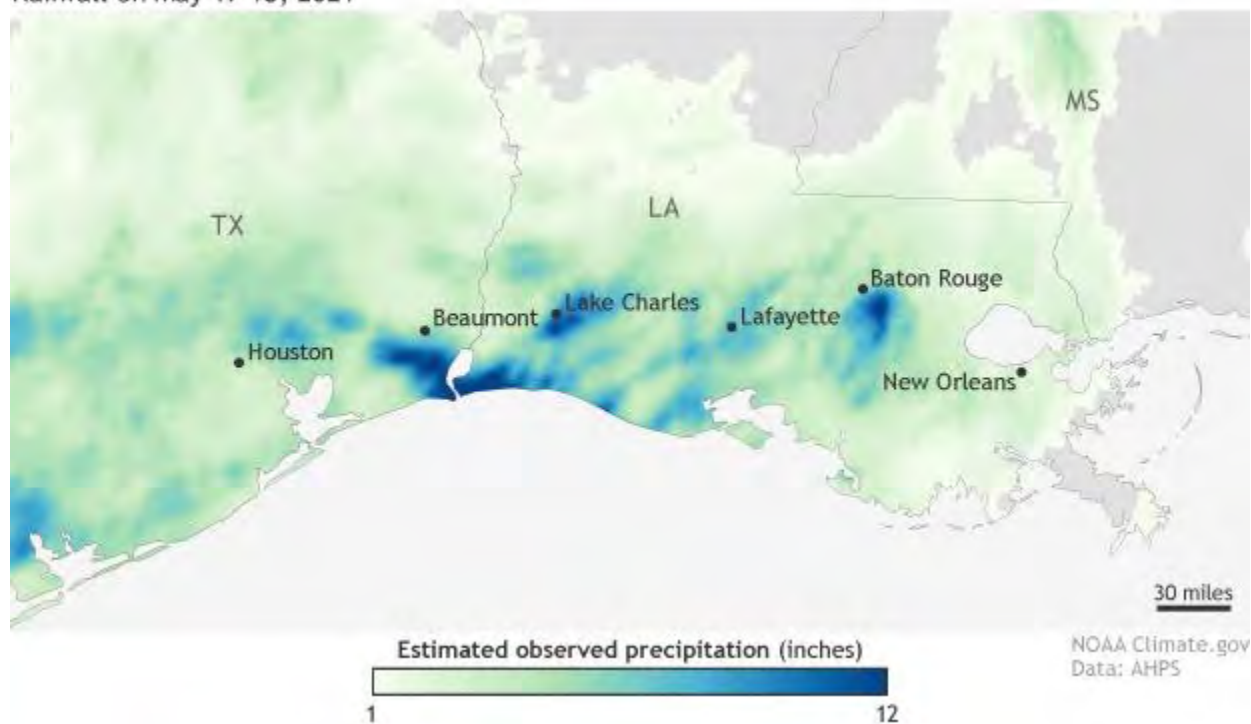


Figure 4: Rainfall May 17-18. Source Climate.gov

COVID-19

While COVID-19 remains present in communities, infection rates, hospitalizations, and deaths have dramatically decreased as more and more individuals get vaccinated.



HAVE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES CHANGED? HOW?

The goals and objectives have not changed.

REGION 7

APRIL 22 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

THANK YOU

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

THANK YOU AND ICEBREAKER

Thank you for being with us today.

Icebreaker: about how many pounds of crawfish have you had this season?

UPDATES

RSC Transitions

- St. John the Baptist Parish
 - Devin Foil has moved into a new position and Rene Pastorek, the Director of Planning with St. John the Baptist, will now be the primary member for the committee
- Vice Chair and DEQ
 - Evelyn Campo: on the agenda to elect new Vice Chair. We appreciate all of the effort Chuck has put into the program.



- Rachelle Sanderson: Chuck is very appreciative of this group and will continue to do LWI work at the state level. Feel free to reach out to him via email.

Funding opportunities, capacity building

- RESTORE Center of Excellence -> Past and future migration in coastal Louisiana: Modeling the impact of flood exposure and economic change with microdata on households and businesses
 - Partners: The Data Center, LSU, CRPC
 - Thomas Douthat: We are trying to develop this proposal to get new resources for micro-leveling modeling of different areas for vulnerability. Do we see migration patterns after a storm event?
 - Dietmar Rietschier: I need to know when you say coastal Louisiana, what are you including? What regions and Parishes are included in that? Need coordination with Amite River Basin Commission efforts.
- Resilience Roadmap work with EPA, Office of Research and Development, Gulf Ecosystem Measurement and Modeling Division & EPA Region 6 Dallas (Richard Fulford and Joyce Stubblefield)
 - Role is about information and development of tools to help communities talk about resilience. We are not on the implementation side of EPA, but the research and development side. We want to work with you to make more of these tools accessible and make communities more resilient.
 - Flood Resilience Roadmap for community planning
 - LWI Guiding Principles align well with ours
 - Improve access and utility of EPA tools...
 - Incorporate ecosystem services...
 - Increase transferability and comparability...
 - Build on EPA partnerships in Ouachita Parish.
 - A Deeper Look at the Ouachita River
 - EPA used a structured decision-making process and quantified the impacts.
 - Report is available.
 - We start with stakeholder engagement.
 - Structured decision-making with DASEES – Decision Analysis for a Sustainable Environment, Economy, & Society
 - 1) Stakeholder Participation and 2) Assessment/Evaluation/Implementation
 - Making information useful and accessible to communities
 - LWI RSC
 - We are interested in getting started with Region 7 by providing technical assistance to LWI and its partners to create a flood resilience guiding document.
 - Roadmap for community engagement
 - We want to engage with communities in Region 7 initially through the stakeholder participation process (DASEES tool).
 - Make technical data useful at the community level.
 - Use this information as an accessory to the Roadmap document.
 - Rachelle Sanderson: This is meant to build on existing work throughout the Region.
 - Ross Liner: Thank you, looking forward to this partnership and the next steps.



- Joyce Stubblefield: We appreciate and look forward to the opportunity to serve the community and the Region. We appreciate the effort and work they have done in Ouachita Parish.

UPDATES

- Karen Zito: have a member sitting on the drainage committee in Livingston Parish and requested to have CRPC speak to Livingston Parish
 - Rachele Sanderson: I will coordinate with Karen Zito and Steve Kistler to identify needs to make sure that we have the individuals presenting who can meet those needs.
- Bridget Bailey: Council formed a Watershed Council subcommittee to start addressing coordination, collaboration, partnership building for Parish outreach and regional efforts. You can reach out to Bridget if you would like to learn more.
- Dietmar Rietschier: Would like for CRPC to come to ARBC meetings and discuss regional problems.
 - Rachele Sanderson: I will coordinate with Dietmar to identify needs to make sure that we have the individuals presenting who can meet those needs.

SOCIAL NETWORK AND PLAN ANALYSIS RESEARCH UPDATE (DR. THOMAS DOUTHAT AND LINDSEY LAMANA)

- The purpose of this work is to find ways to talk about how our structured decision-making models plug into planning and regulatory questions and how they intersect systemically
- Region 7 has many actors and facets of planning.
- LWI planning objectives guided the framing of the research to consider how we think about more integrated decision-making through a watershed management planning lens.
 - A jumping off place to do this is to document what the existing planning documents and regulations are and then try to relate them.
 - Considering what we have already, what gaps exist, and how we address gaps.
- Key questions
 - What exists in our current plans that is relevant to LWI?
 - How does this information relate across plans?
- We are using a platform called NVivo that can cross reference between plans based on attributes.
- Plan evaluation
 - There were about 87 plans collected up to 2020 and then determined a protocol for coding in NVivo
 - This considers:
 - Goals and objectives; fact base; policies, tools, and strategies; coordination and capabilities; implementing and monitoring; and participation



- Provides a baseline for how to move forward with capability and integration within a watershed context moving forward
- Creating network data from plans
 - Can use this to see how often and in which plans certain organizations are mentioned in plans
 - Can use this plan to also see which plans also reference other plans
- Actor/organization types include government, NGO, educational institution, private business, and professional services
- Can use to see patterns of mentions in plans
 - Parishes mentioning parishes outside of their own doesn't happen often within plans
- Social network analysis of plan
 - Shows every organization linked to each plan within the region.
 - Analytic and filtering methods are used to determine patterns.
 - Centrality measures allow us to use statistical analysis to determine certain things
 - Example: Degree – the number of ties a node has, actors with highest degree centrality have a greater number of ties and are more informed
- Some initial findings
 - Gravity draining districts, levee districts, and soil and water conservation districts are rarely mentioned this suggests that these gaps in integration suggest a need for more capacity
 - Mostly government entities and NGOs are involved in plans
 - Educational institutions aren't a large part of the network but where they are, they have a lot of connections with different plans
 - How can we build up connections and capabilities that can facilitate connection and integration throughout the region?
 - When we sort out just local planning efforts, local government entities and plans show that planning is limited to jurisdictions
 - To consider... if there's a multi-jurisdictional issue, it necessitates institutionalization of planning at that scale
 - Planning efforts with cross-jurisdictional efforts are incentivized through regional, state, and federal processes.
 - Weak horizontal collaboration among different parishes but parishes in the same metro are more likely to collaborate
 - Federal, state, and regional organizations bridge the gaps between local government planning in different parishes
 - Data from LA hazard mitigation plan and coastal master plan are being incorporated into local hazard mitigation plans and comprehensive plans
 - Local government organizations are the most involved in the planning network
- What's next
 - Putting in a public facing data sharing page with documents, methods, scripts
 - Include a full evaluation for content



- Final executive summary – august 2021
- Questions/comments
 - Need to provide clarity on diagrams and values. Be careful of quantifying qualitative data. Have a narrative to support the work that has been done
 - St. Tammany is in the middle of updating their comprehensive planning
 - We live in the stone age with planning, can't make the leap from that to space age. Need to consider how we get better or more sophisticated. We'll need to deal with local government and politicians. Need to think about how we sell this to local governments

ROUND 1 PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

RECAP

March 23rd discussion – project selection process

- Discussion and consensus exercise determined that the RSC would follow the state's selection process. Some points from the discussion:
 - Only for round 1, this is an interim committee, and the future committees will need to defend the process.
 - Little time to create a region-specific process.
- Dietmar Rietschier: We have to be wary of the ethics of RSC members selecting projects.
- Rachelle Sanderson: We have been thinking of this in the process. There have been conversations about ethics that we have had in the background, but it really comes down to the state's policies.
- Evelyn Campo: Everyone on the RSC is subject to a conflict-of-interest disclosure requirement if you do suspect that you have a conflict of interest. If you have any specific questions, reach out and we can work with the legal folks on that. I commend this group in taking this very seriously and looking at all the angles of the questions here. Thank you for making sure that you're informed and supporting the process.

FOLLOWING THE STATE'S PROCESS

Recommendations from the project selection document:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54cbd54fe4b047a0380cae54/t/60788c0d0370876f0e645928/1618512909908/Region+7+Round+1+project+selection+process+document.pdf>.

- Evelyn Campo: This group has sufficiently met 1 and 2. On 3 and 4, this group has a choice that is the subject of the vote today. The state gives each region two choices to choose from
- In the event that the highest ranked projects do not add up to \$5 mill, and the next ranking project would result in awards greater than \$5 million within the region, the region may recommend to award the remaining balance of \$5 million to a lower-ranking project.



VOTE FOR THE PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Vote: the region will recommend projects for funding based on the established project selection process and criteria.

- Yay = in favor
- Nay = opposed to doing this

Ross Liner called for motion.

Major Coleman motioned.

Bridget Bailey seconded.

RESULTS: No objections, motion passed.

- Yay - 12
- Nay - 0
- Absent - 4



Vote

Project selection process

- The region will recommend projects for funding based on the established LWI Round 1 project selection process and criteria.

AFFILIATION	VOTE	AFFILIATION	VOTE
Ascension Parish	Yay	St. John the Baptist Parish	Absent
East Baton Rouge Parish	Yay	St. Tammany Parish	Yay
East Feliciana	Absent	Tangipahoa Parish	Yay
Iberville Parish	Yay	Washington Parish	Absent
Livingston Parish	Yay	West Feliciana Parish	Yay
St. Charles Parish	Yay	Amite River Basin Commission	Yay
St. Helena Parish	Yay	Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge	Yay
St. James Parish	Absent	Pontchartrain Conservancy and Tangipahoa Parish Council	Yay

ADDITIONAL VOTING ITEMS

VOTE FOR VICE CHAIR

Nominations for:

- Bridget Bailey – accepts.
- Ronny Carter – does not accept.
- Karen Zito – does not accept.

Bridget Bailey was the only nomination.

Ross Liner called for motion to accept Bridget Bailey as Vice Chair

Ronny Carter motioned.



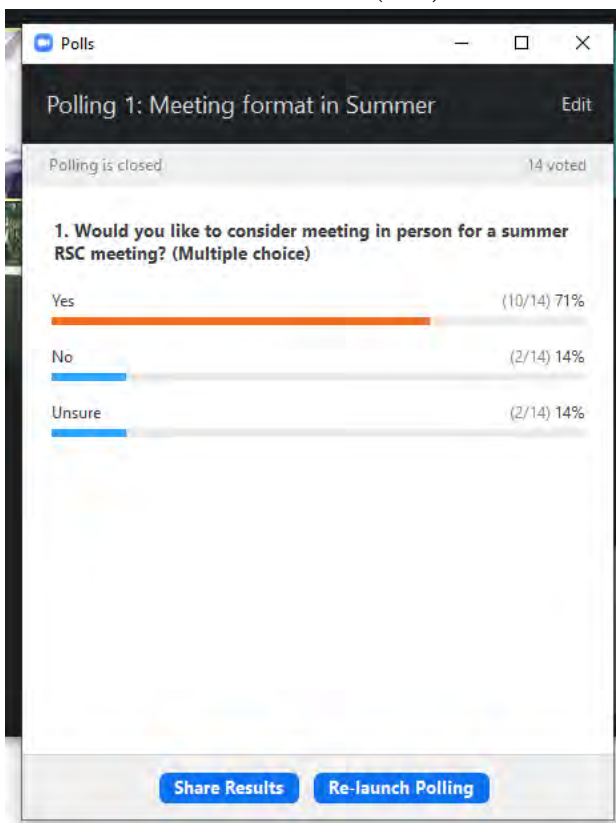
Major Coleman seconded.
No objections, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT + REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

Request for feedback on our board: https://jamboard.google.com/d/1im-gdQukjM1u3XR2m7Yj_mpDzL1wTPZjMYeYrdULuAY/edit?usp=sharing.

POLL FOR SUMMER MEETING FORMAT

1. Would you like to consider meeting in person for a summer RSC meeting?
 - a. **Yes – 10/14 (71%)**
 - b. No – 2/14 (14%)
 - c. Unsure – 2/14 (14%)



PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.



MEETING CLOSEOUT

Upcoming meetings:

May 25th from 1-3:30 PM

June 29 from 1-3:30 PM

ADOPTION OF FEBRUARY 25 MEETING MINUTES

Ross Liner called for motion.

Earl Matherne motioned.

Bridget Bailey seconded

No objections, motion passed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ross Liner called for motion.

Bridget Bailey motioned.

Major Coleman seconded.

No objections, motion passed.

RESOURCES SHARED DURING THE MEETING

Round 1 Regional Project Selection Process Document (Region 7) -

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54cbd54fe4b047a0380cae54/t/60788c0d0370876f0e645928/1618512909908/Region+7+Round+1+project+selection+process+document.pdf>

MEETING CHAT

12:54:45 From Adrejia Swafford to Everyone : hi all

12:59:04 From Evelyn Campo to Everyone : We are now recording, thanks to all for joining

13:00:07 From Drew Ratcliff to Everyone : Drew Ratcliff, CRPC

13:01:01 From Karen Zito to Everyone : Karen Zito

Home Builders Association GBR

13:01:13 From Marvin McGraw to Everyone : Marvin McGraw OCD

13:01:52 From Evelyn Campo to Everyone : Evelyn Campo, OCD, please feel free to send me a chat or email evelyn.campo@la.gov if you have tech issues with the zoom today

13:02:05 From Lindsey Lamana to Everyone : Lindsey Lamana and Dr. Thomas Douthat, LSU

13:02:14 From kim marousek to Everyone : Kim Marousek, CRPC

13:02:32 From Chris Shalohm to Everyone : Chris Shalohm, CRPC

13:02:46 From Earl Matherne to Everyone : Earl Matherne, St Charles Parish



13:04:57 From Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (she/her) to Everyone :
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54cbd54fe4b047a0380cae54/t/60788c0d0370876f0e645928/1618512909908/Region+7+Round+1+project+selection+process+document.pdf>

13:06:34 From Ronny Carter to Everyone : Ronny Carter LPBF

13:12:46 From Earl Matherne to Everyone : More please

13:12:48 From Chris Shalohm to Everyone : ZERO

13:12:56 From Robert Joyner to Everyone : Still need more!

13:12:56 From ross liner to Everyone : I'm a crawfish and need more

13:13:06 From Bridget Bailey to Everyone : None yet but looking for some!!!

13:13:20 From Ronny Carter to Everyone : a sack or two

13:13:23 From Jenny Schexnayder to Everyone : I'm basically a crawfish now but can always have more.

13:13:38 From Tom Stephens to Everyone : I had a crawfish melt sandwich from Elsa's that was a nice change

13:13:39 From Karen Zito to Everyone : None ☐

13:28:16 From John Clark to Everyone : John Clark, Iberville Parish

13:28:41 From Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (she/her) to Everyone : Welcome, John! Glad to have you - we're running through updates

13:29:01 From Gary Mego to Everyone : Gary Mego, West Feliciana Parish

13:34:03 From Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (she/her) to Everyone : Ouachita report can be found here:
https://cfpub.epa.gov/si/si_public_record_Report.cfm?dirEntryId=350855&Lab=CEMM

14:19:39 From ross liner to Everyone : can we get a copy of the presentation?

14:24:19 From kim marousek to Everyone : Me too, Ross!

14:28:12 From Devin Foil to Everyone : I cannot tell, but it seems Laplace may be labeled as Montegut on that map.

14:29:24 From Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (she/her) to Everyone : Thanks, Devin. I think I'm seeing that too!
We'll make sure that's updated

14:32:28 From Evelyn Campo to Everyone : <https://watershed.la.gov/round-1-projects> this is a landing page for Round 1 info

14:38:13 From Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (she/her) to Everyone :
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54cbd54fe4b047a0380cae54/t/60788c0d0370876f0e645928/1618512909908/Region+7+Round+1+project+selection+process+document.pdf>

14:39:34 From Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (she/her) to Everyone : Apologies for saying 1-3. Evelyn is correct that we've addressed 1 and 2 to date.

14:46:47 From Karen Zito to Everyone : Home Builders Association GBR
Karen Zito
Vote - Yay

14:50:10 From Karen Zito to Everyone : If possible I would like to remove my name

14:52:41 From kim marousek to Everyone : Thanks Bridget!

14:53:25 From Rachelle "Ray-chel" Sanderson (she/her) to Everyone : https://jamboard.google.com/d/1imgDQukjM1u3XR2m7Yj_mpDzL1wTPZjMYeYrdULuAY/edit?usp=sharing

14:53:46 From ross liner to Everyone : Are RSC members open to in-person meetings in the near future???



LWI Region 7

Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting

APRIL 22, 2021

RACHELLE SANDERSON, CRPC

KIM MAROUSEK, CRPC

EVELYN CAMPO, OCD

NICOLETTE JONES, OCD

DR. THOMAS DOUTHAT, LSU

LINDSEY LAMANA, LSU

RICH FULFORD, EPA

JOYCE STUBBLEFIELD, EPA



LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

working together for sustainability and resilience



AGENDA

1. Introductions and meeting logistics
2. Past meetings recap, reminders, updates
3. Social network and plan analysis research update
4. Round 1 project selection process
5. Additional voting items
6. Public comment
7. 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



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
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
Ronny Carter and/or Kim Coates	Pontchartrain Conservancy and Tangipahoa Parish Council



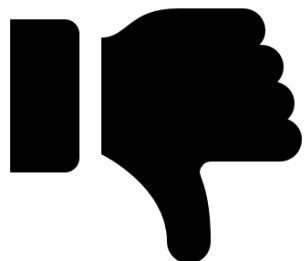


2. Past meetings recap, reminders, updates



Thank you & a quick icebreaker

- For being with us today
- Icebreaker: About how many pounds of crawfish have you had this season?



ZERO! THEY'RE GROSS OR I HAVEN'T HAD THE OPPORTUNITY YET

I NEED MORE

ENOUGH TO SATISFY ME

I'M BASICALLY A CRAWFISH NOW
Source: BayouWoman.com



Updates


RSC Transitions

- **St. John the Baptist Parish**
- **Vice Chair and DEQ**



Updates

Funding opportunities, capacity building

- **RESTORE Center of Excellence**  **Past and future migration in coastal Louisiana: Modeling the impact of flood exposure and economic change with microdata on households and businesses**
 - Partners: CRPC, The Data Center, LSU College of Coast and Environment, LSU Dept. of Experimental Statistics



Updates

Funding opportunities, capacity building

- **Resilience Roadmap work with EPA, building off work in Ouachita Parish post-2016 floods**
 - The LA flood resilience roadmap is intended to be a decision support tool that provides a practical pathway to using data and tools to understand complex decisions.



EPA OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT,
Gulf Ecosystem Measurement and Modeling Division
&
EPA Region 6 Dallas

Resilience Roadmap Proposal:
Quantification impacts sustaining human well-being

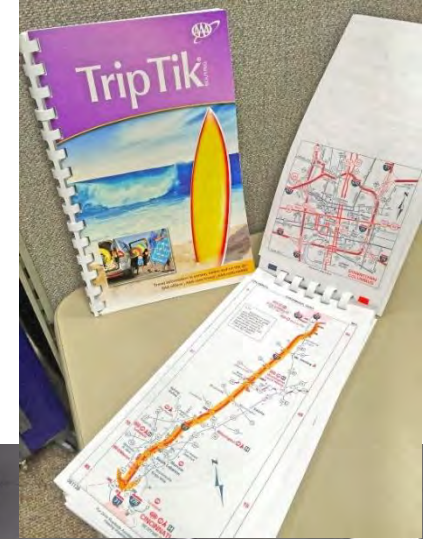
We are working on a flood resilience roadmap for community planning

○ Overview

- How can we **improve access and utility of EPA tools** to better inform community decision making and increase resilience to flooding?
- Incorporate ecosystem services as an assessment tool
- Increase **transferability and comparability** between communities
- Build on EPA partnerships in Ouachita parish, LA examining ecosystem services of the Ouachita river.

○ Recent findings

- Currently developing RESES findings in Ouachita parish as an EPA report – **A Deeper Look at the Ouachita River**





United States Environmental Protection Agency

A Deeper Look at the Ouachita River

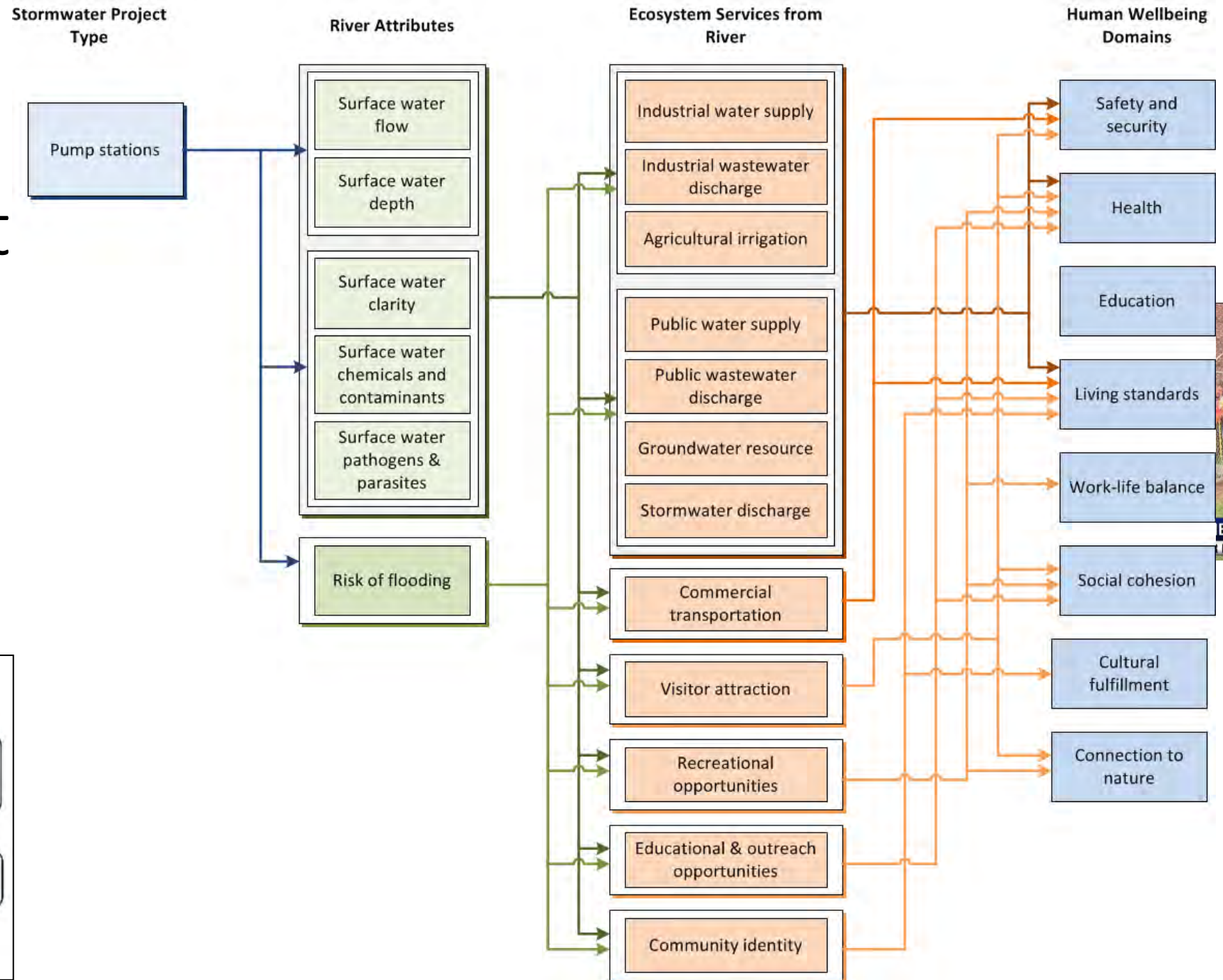
How investment in Ouachita River infrastructure sustains human well-being in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana



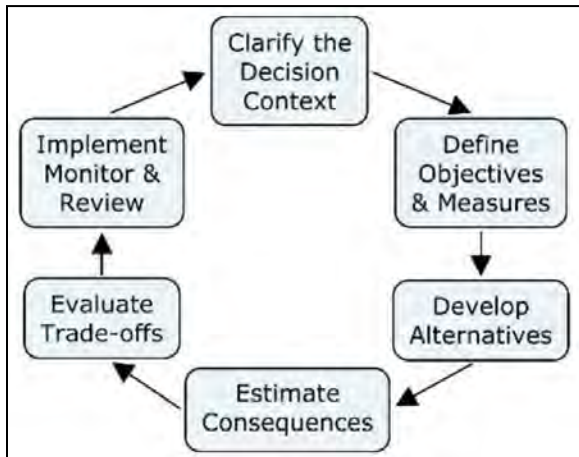
Office of Research and Development
Gulf Ecosystem Measurement and Modeling Division

The communities of Monroe and West Monroe, LA had the stated goal of quantifying the impacts of critical infrastructure, such as levees, on community well-being. EPA used a structure decision-making process and quantified the impacts.

Communit

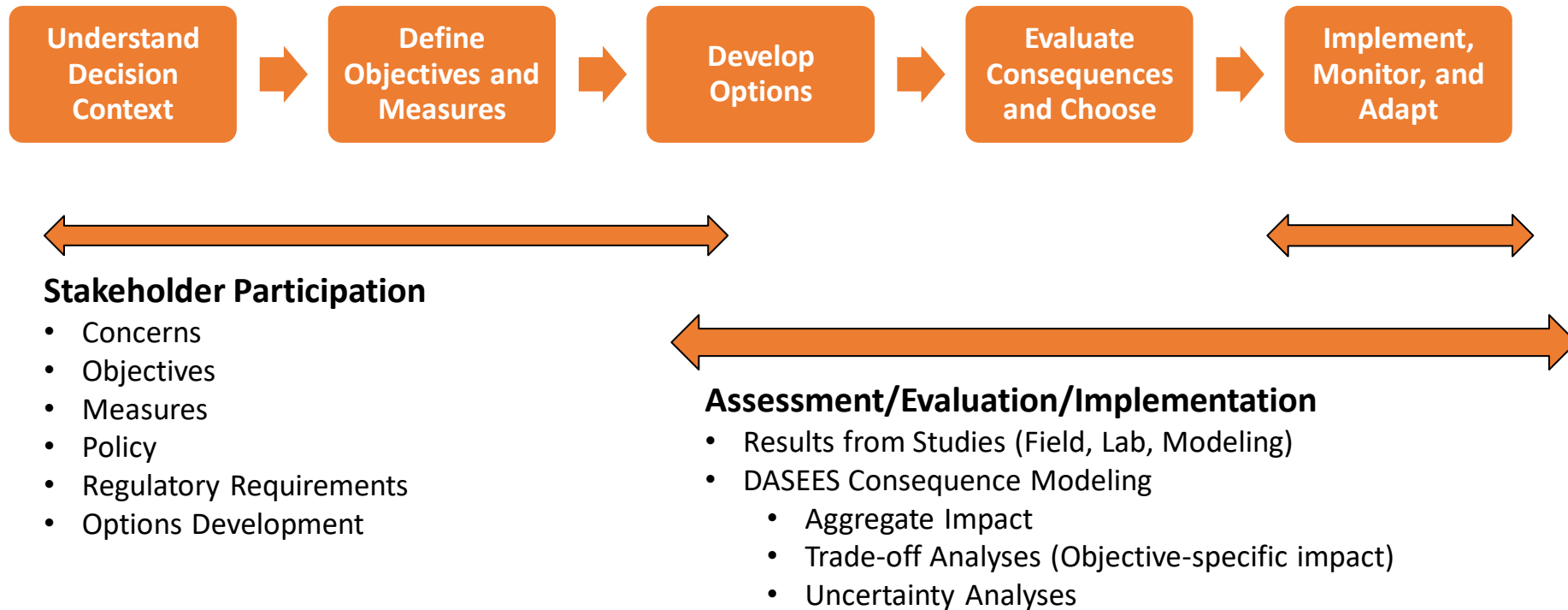


Structured Decision Making



Structured Decision-Making with DASEES

(Decision Analysis For A Sustainable Environment, Economy & Society)



Making information useful and accessible to communities

LWI Regional Steering Committee

- Provide technical assistance to local entities to create floodplain management plans
 - Roadmap for community engagement
 - Technical tools for collecting and organizing stakeholder input (DASEES)
 - Make technical data useful at the community level
- Coordination of the Regional planning process
 - Template approach to community engagement

We are interested in moving forward in Region 7!

Region 7



[Download Region 7 Map](#)

Parishes

A - West Feliciana	G - Livingston
B - East Feliciana	H - St. Tammany
C - St. Helena	I - Iberville
D - Tangipahoa	J - Ascension
E - Washington	K - St. John the Baptist
F - East Baton Rouge	L - St. James
	M - St. Charles



Updates

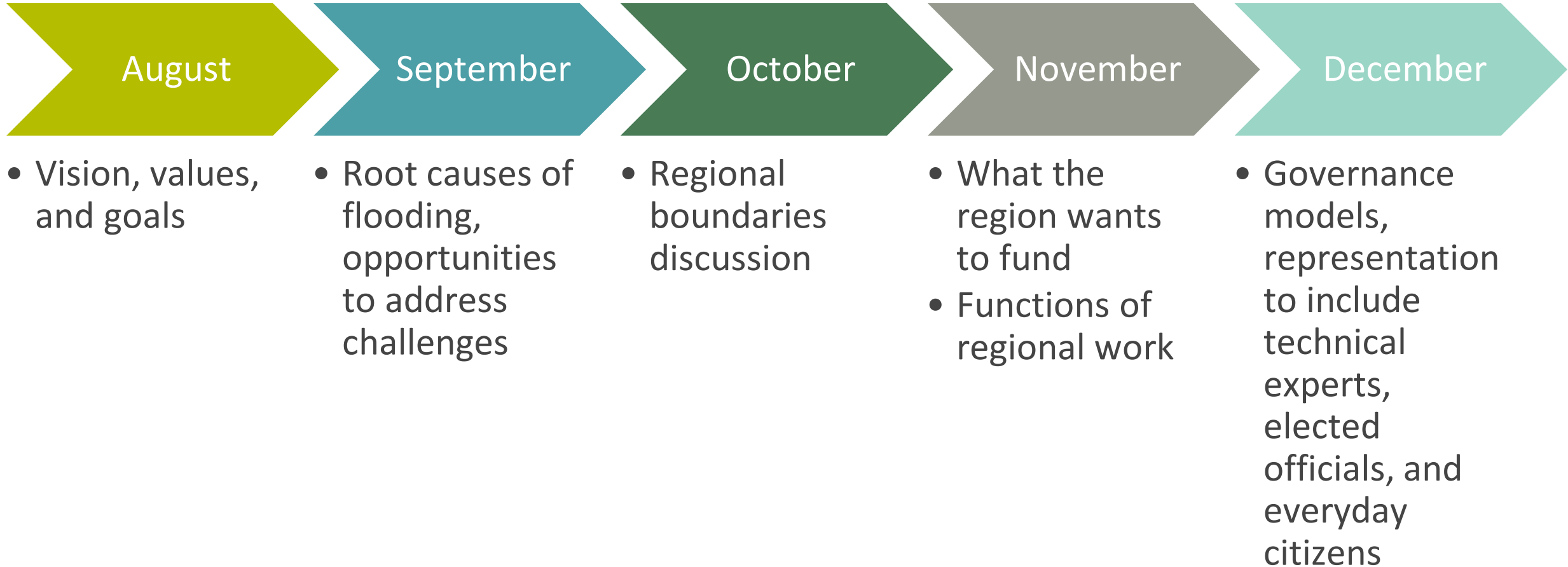
Open call for updates

- **RSC members, let us know if you have updates**
 - **Karen Update - have a member sitting on drainage committee in Livingston and requested to have CRPC come and speak to Livingston to explain Region 7 of LWI and the importance of LWI**
 - **Bridget - Council formed a Council subcommittee (Watershed Committee) to start addressing coordination, collaboration, partnership building for Parish outreach for regional efforts**
 - **Dietmar - come to ARBC monthly meeting and explain Region 7**
- **Other folks on the call, please put updates you'd like to share in the chat pod**



A quick recap...

2020



A quick recap...

January

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

February

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

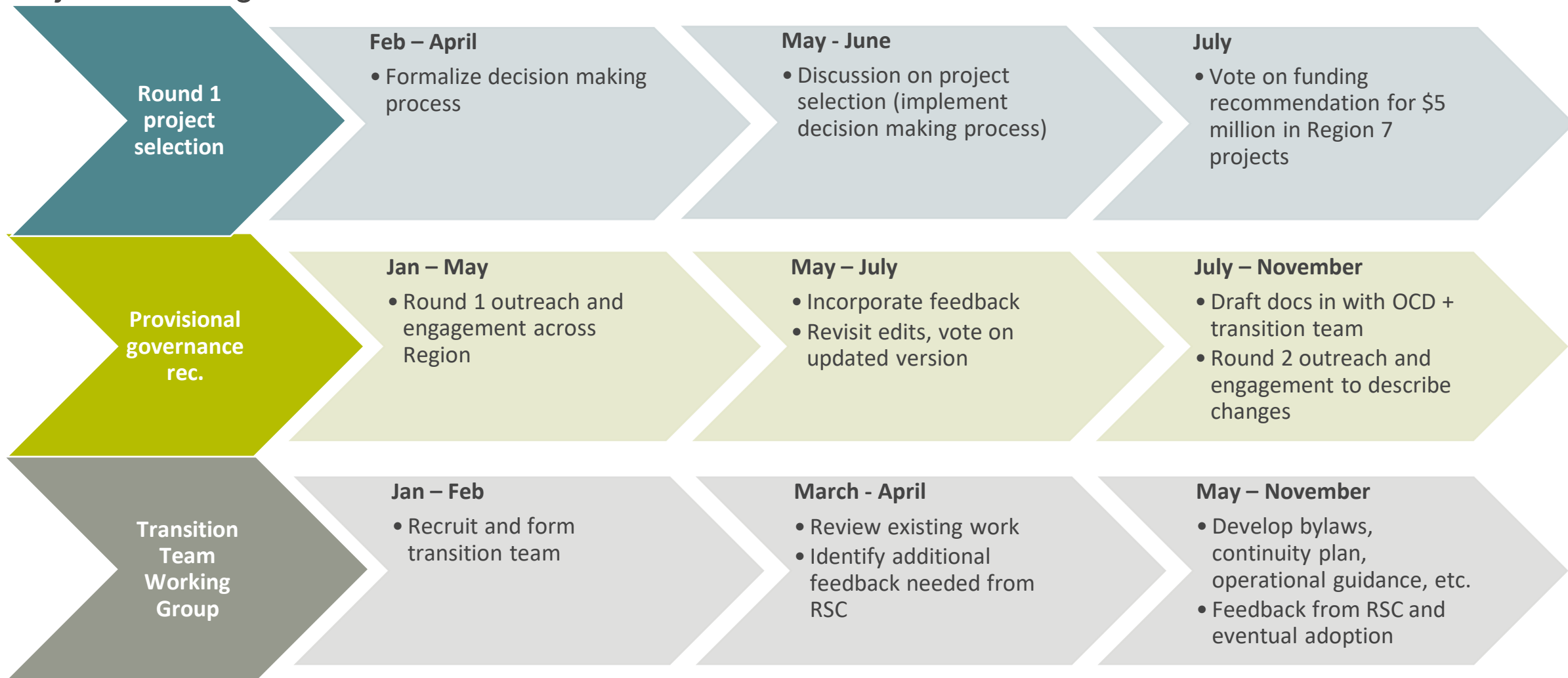
March

- Learn about potential long-term funding opportunities
- Discuss Round 1 project selection process, leverage state's process



Future work

subject to change



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:

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- 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



Reminders from previous conversations

Mission & Vision

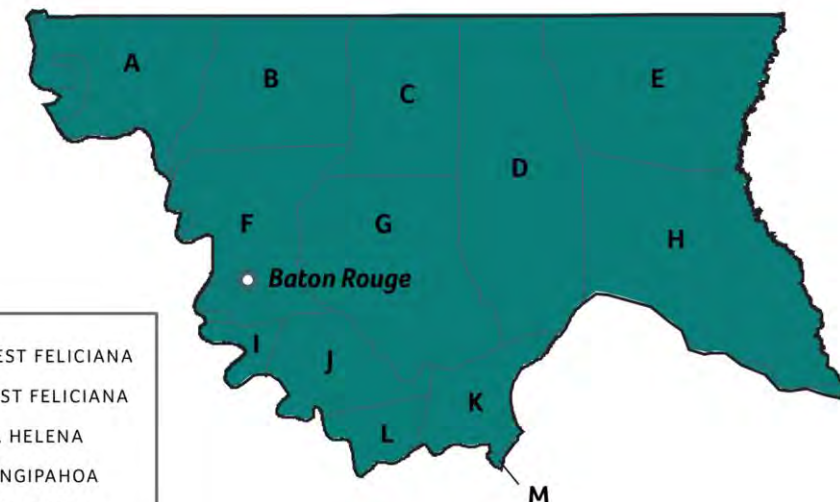
- **LWI Mission:**
 - Reduce flood risk, improve floodplain management throughout the state and maximize the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains
- **Region 7 Vision:**
 - Region 7 envisions a future with less flood risk, healthier natural environments, and resilience practices that are responsive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



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


- Finalized governance recommendation due summer 2021 **subject to change**
- Identify projects to recommend for funding due July 2021 **subject to change**





3. Social network and plan analysis research update





Research Update:
Network Analysis in
Plan Evaluation of
Existing Watershed-
Related Plans in
LWI-REGION 7

Lindsey Lamana

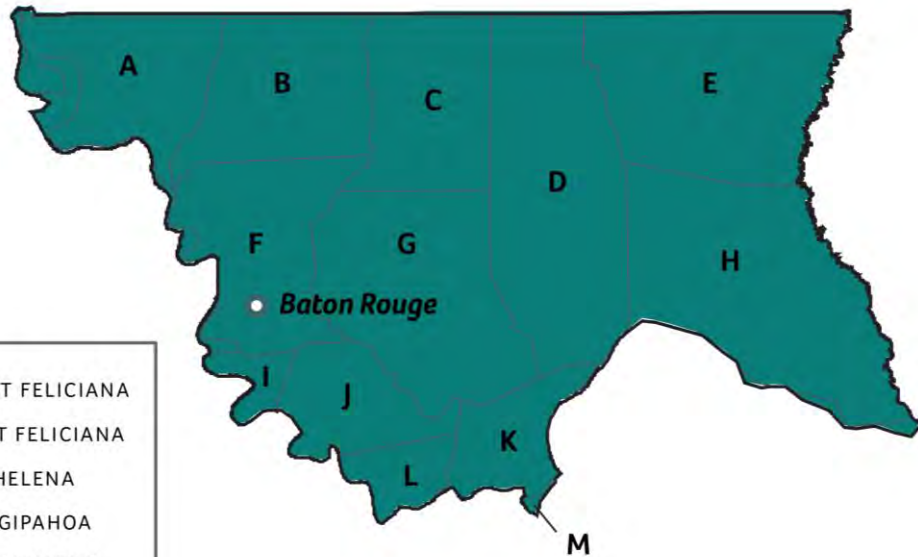
Advisor: Dr. Thomas Douthat

Department of Environmental Sciences

College of the Coast & Environment

Louisiana State University

With the Support of LWI Region 7



- 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

Louisiana Watershed Initiative

- Region 7
- Parishes (13)
 - Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Feliciana
- Upper Pontchartrain Basin
- Mississippi River, Amite River, Comite River, Tangipahoa River, Pearl River

Source: LWI. 2020.

LWI Objectives

- **Data.** Relevant, living models and data in each watershed that are used for land use, policy decision-making, and project evaluation.
- **Engagement.** Stakeholders from all sectors and corners of the state have contributed and bought into the program and its outcomes.
- **Standards.** Jurisdictions across Louisiana demonstrate leadership in understanding and developing standards that are in alignment with state objectives, while the State of Louisiana demonstrates leadership by adopting these regulations and adhering to them before asking watershed, parish or municipalities to do so.
- **Funding.** Sustainable funding sources for each watershed to meet near and long-term project and maintenance needs, and for the State to maintain support and leadership capability.
- **Capability and Capacity.** Watersheds and their jurisdictions and the State have the resources, staff, skills, and tools necessary to effectively reduce flood risk to the existing built environment and limit risk through future development, redevelopment and project implementation.
- **Integrated Planning.** Each watershed has a plan that was developed by its member parishes, is aligned with the state plan and vice versa, and the state plan is supported by existing programs and state agencies.

Using scientific tools and data

Enabling transparent, objective decision-making

Maximizing the natural function of floodplains

Establishing regional, watershed-based management of flood risk

How do we Integrate Planning? ID needs for capacity development?

- Can we systemize our documentation of our plans and watershed-related regulated to be useful in regional (and local) decision making?
- Many planning processes have a mandate to do capacity review
 - MPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
 - FEMA Hazard Mitigation - § 201.5
 - EDA Partnership Planning
 - CPRA
- Reviews of regulations in watershed analysis (e.g., Flood Risk Report Amite Watershed, 2019)
- What's on the books, what's in the plans?
 - Not the entire story, but a tractable place to start!

Key Questions

- What exists in our current plans that is relevant to LWI?
 - Documenting Content
- How does this information relate across plans?
 - Understand the Structure of Planning Networks

LWI Objectives

- **Data.** Relevant, living models and data in each watershed that are used for land use, policy decision-making, and project evaluation.
- **Engagement.** Stakeholders from all sectors and corners of the state have contributed and bought into the program and its outcomes.
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Using scientific tools and data

Enabling transparent, objective decision-making

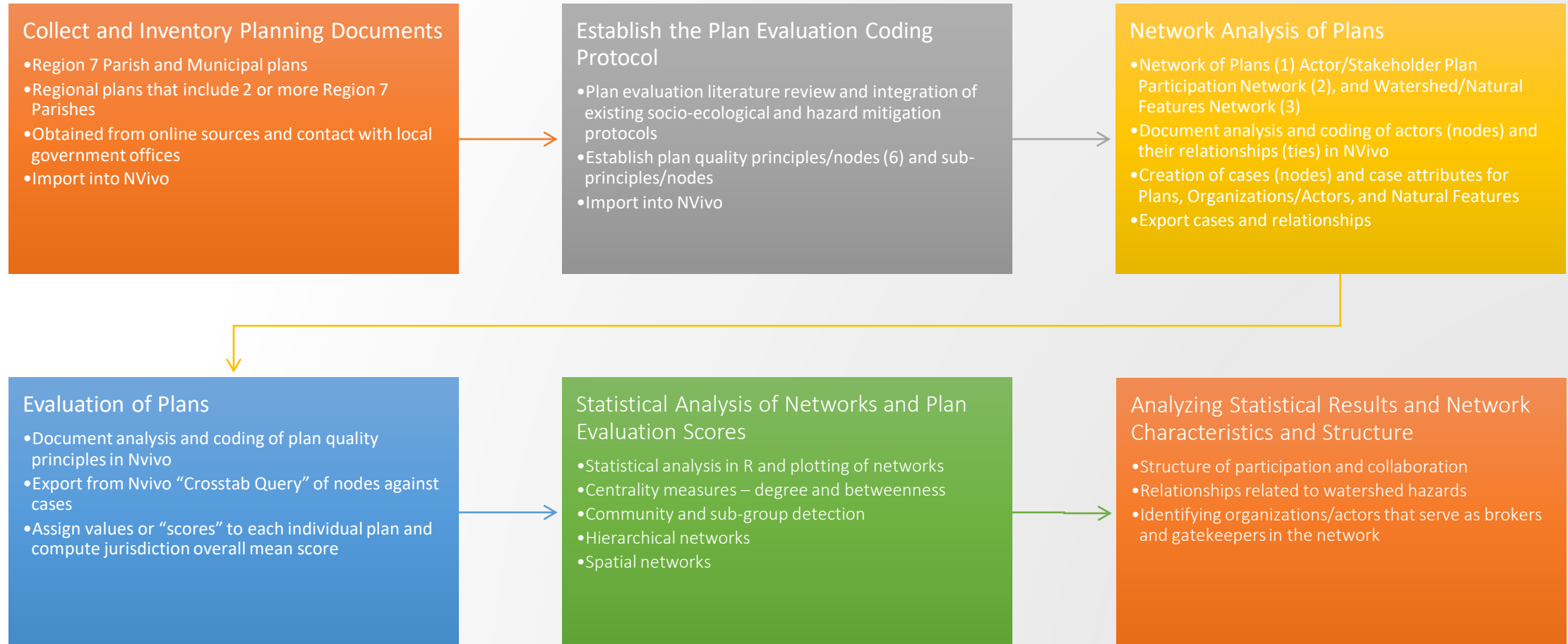
Maximizing the natural function of floodplains

Establishing regional, watershed-based management of flood risk

Purpose of Study

- Address the gaps in watershed governance and planning in the Upper Pontchartrain Basin by
 - Developing a plan evaluation framework for watershed systems and flood risk reduction
 - Developing a socio-ecological network analysis methodology for measuring the relationships between planning and actors
- Regional Plan Evaluation
 - How well do local plans address watershed risks and flood hazards?
 - What types of plans and who better addresses these risks?
- Planning Network Structure
 - What type of organizations are involved in the planning process?
 - Who are the key actors (brokers and gatekeepers) in the planning process and coordination?
 - Are there patterns or gaps in the geospatial structure of the networks?
- Inter-jurisdictional Coordination
 - Are jurisdictions coordinating with one another?
 - Vertical v. horizontal collaboration (upstream v. downstream)

Developing a Coding Protocol and Data Procedure for Watershed Plan Evaluation



Data Collection

- Obtained existing Parish, Municipal, and Regional planning documents within the boundaries of the LWI Region 7 watershed by web-based research methods
 - Local government/jurisdiction websites
 - Regional planning commission, MPO, and planning consultant websites
 - Search engine results (Google or Bing)
 - Contact government offices and/or planning and zoning departments
- Maintained inventory of plans in excel sheet
 - What types of plans do each Parish and Municipality have/not have?
 - What plans do we not have?
 - Plan collection stopped after December 2020.
- The documents were imported into the qualitative analysis software NVivo and classified based on type of plan.

Classes of Plans

Plan Type	Federal	Municipal	Parish	Regional	State	Grand Total
Comprehensive /Land Use		10	13			23
Coastal Zone				5	1	6
Economic Dev.			1			1
Hazard		1	15	1	1	18
Transportation		2	2	4	4	12
Recovery		1	1	1	1	4
Stormwater		5	6			11
Other	1		10		1	12
Grand Total	1	19	53	6	8	87



Comprehensive/Master



Hazard Mitigation



Stormwater Management



Coastal Zone Management



Adaptation, Recovery, and Resiliency



Transportation

Establishing the Plan Evaluation Coding Protocol (the Protocol)

- Reviewed existing plan evaluation literature and guidance documents for natural resources and watershed planning and natural hazards mitigation
- Brody's *Ecosystem Planning in Florida* (2008)
 - Empirically-driven, quantitative assessment of local planning frameworks with an emphasis on ecological systems (socio-ecological plan analysis)
- Adapted plan evaluation protocols from existing literature to include watershed and flood-related hazards and multi-jurisdictional elements and established 6 “plan quality principles/themes”
- The Protocol was saved as an excel document and imported as nodes (Principles) and sub-nodes (Sub-principles) into NVivo.

Plan Evaluation Coding Protocol Principles



Goals & Objectives



Fact Base



Coordination, Collaboration & Capabilities



Participation



Policies, Tools & Strategies



Implementation & Monitoring

Plan Evaluation Coding Protocol Sub-principle Themes

Goals & Objectives	Fact Base	Policies, Tools, & Strategies	Coordination & Capabilities	Implementation & Monitoring	Participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overarching Vision• Hazard Loss• Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource Inventory• Human Ownership and Problem Identification• Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment• Vulnerability Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preventative Land Use Policies• Property Protection Policies• Public Information Policies• Structural Controls Policies• Emergency Services Policies• Regulatory Tools• Incentive Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination with governments• Coordination with organizations• Coordination with private sector• Coordination with region within watershed• Conflict management processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designated responsibility and enforcement• Plan updates and assessment• Tracking losses and use of funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Documentation of planning process• Organization Involvement• Public Engagement• Equitable engagement

Status of Comprehensive Plans in Louisiana Parishes



How do we place the content of plans within a regional structure or system?



Goals & Objectives



Fact Base



Coordination, Collaboration & Capabilities



Participation



Policies, Tools & Strategies

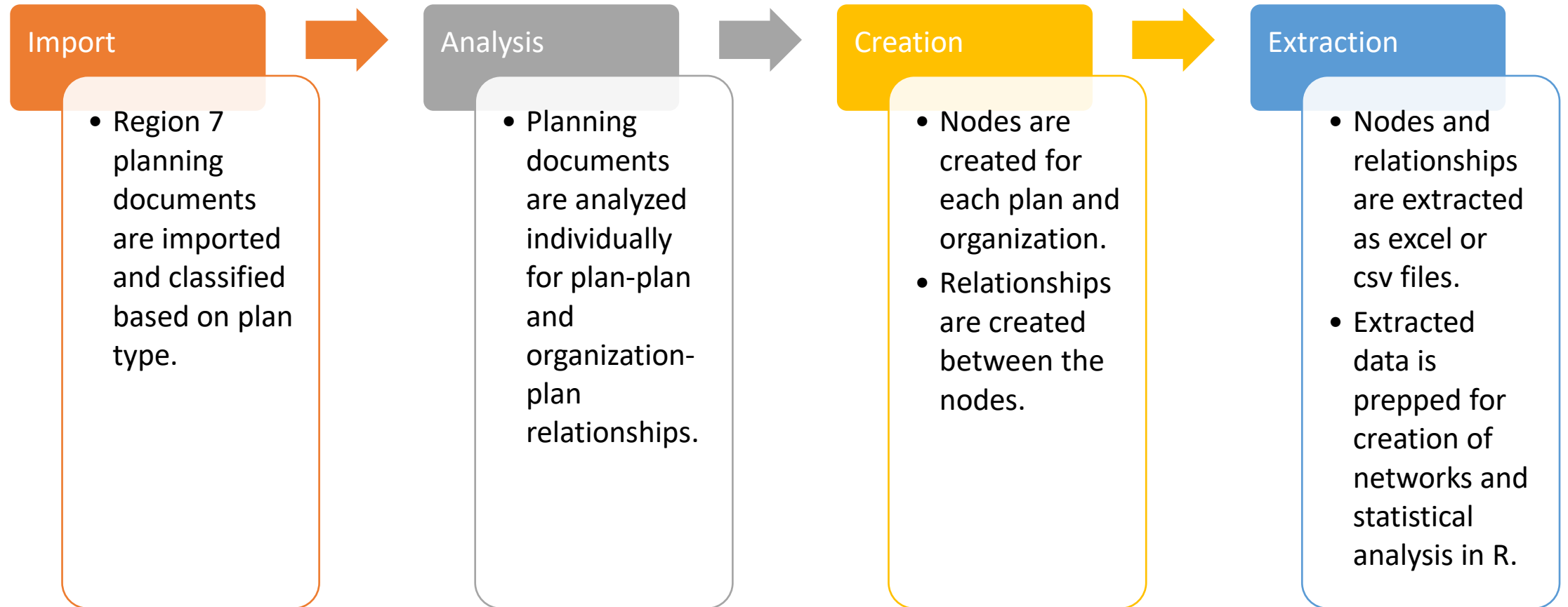


Implementation & Monitoring

Creating Network Data from Plans

- Document analysis and coding actors and their relationships in NVivo
 - Actors, plans , and natural features are coded as cases, a type of node.
 - Cases are assigned control variables/attribute values.
- Relationships are created between cases.
 - Relationships types:
 - Participation – participated, authored, technical contribution.
 - Mentions – mentioned, cited, referenced (plans -> plans).
- Process of double-checking relationships.
- Network data is exported from NVivo as excel documents.
 - Two-mode network: Actor-Plans.
 - One-mode network: Plans.

Relational Data Collection in NVivo 12



Actor/Organization Types

Government	Educational Institution	NGO	Private Business	Professional Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• International• Federal• State• Local• Includes departments, boards, and commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public/private university• Community college• Technical college• Includes departments and centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Philanthropies (charities, foundations)• Volunteer/service• Advocacy• Environmental/conser vation• Community• Professional and trade• Healthcare• Arts/cultural• Religious/faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporations• Companies• Small businesses• Other for-profits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Architecture• Engineering• Environmental• Planning• Law• Includes consultants and firms

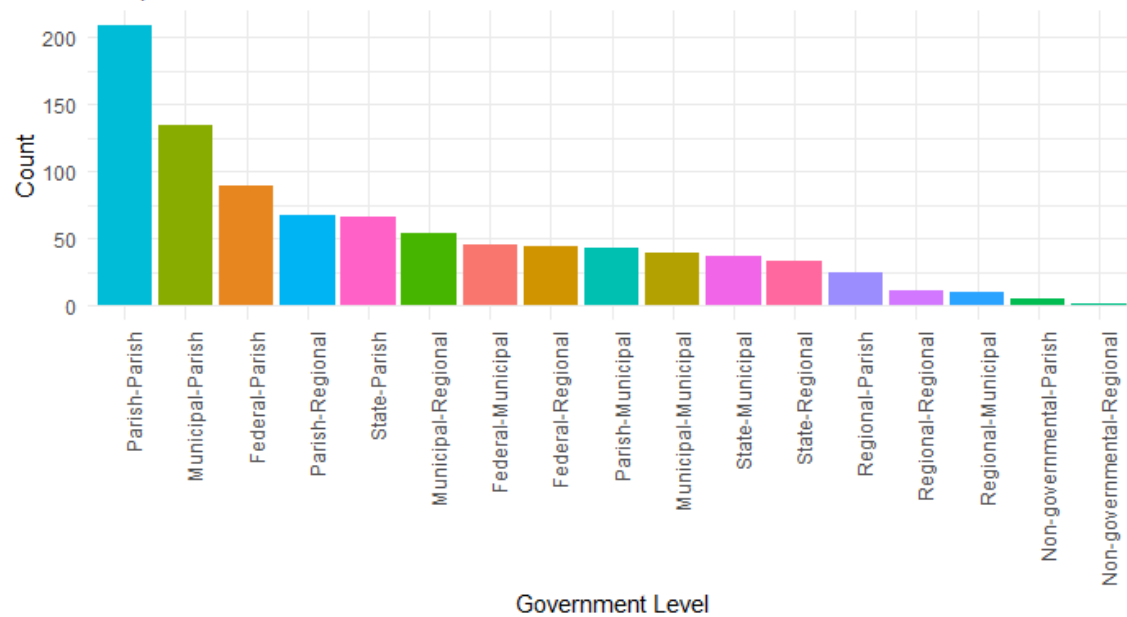
Control Variables/Attributes

	Numeric	Categorical
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEOIDs • Total population • Total population by race and ethnicity • Total population by educational attainment • Population density • Area • Median age • Median household income • Geographic coordinates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization type • Government level • Parish • Municipality • Municipality level • NGO type • NPO (Y/N) • Professional services type • Urban Area (Y/N) • Urban Cluster (Y/N)
Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEOIDs • Total population • Total population by race and ethnicity • Total population by educational attainment • Population density • Area • Median age • Median household income • Geographic coordinates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan type • Government level • Parish • Municipality • Municipality level • Plan year • Federal plan (Y/N) • State plan (Y/N) • Regional plan (Y/N) • Capacity

Actor Network of Plans

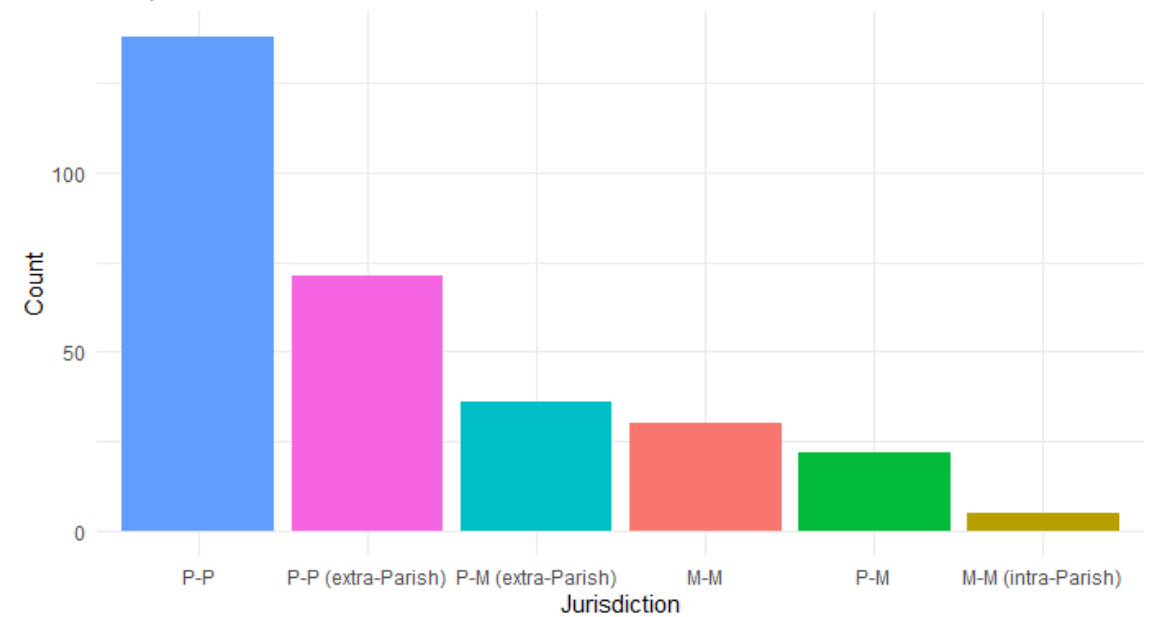
All Organizations to Plans: Tie Count by Government Level

Complete Actor Network of Plans



Local Government Organizations to Plans: Tie Count by Jurisdiction

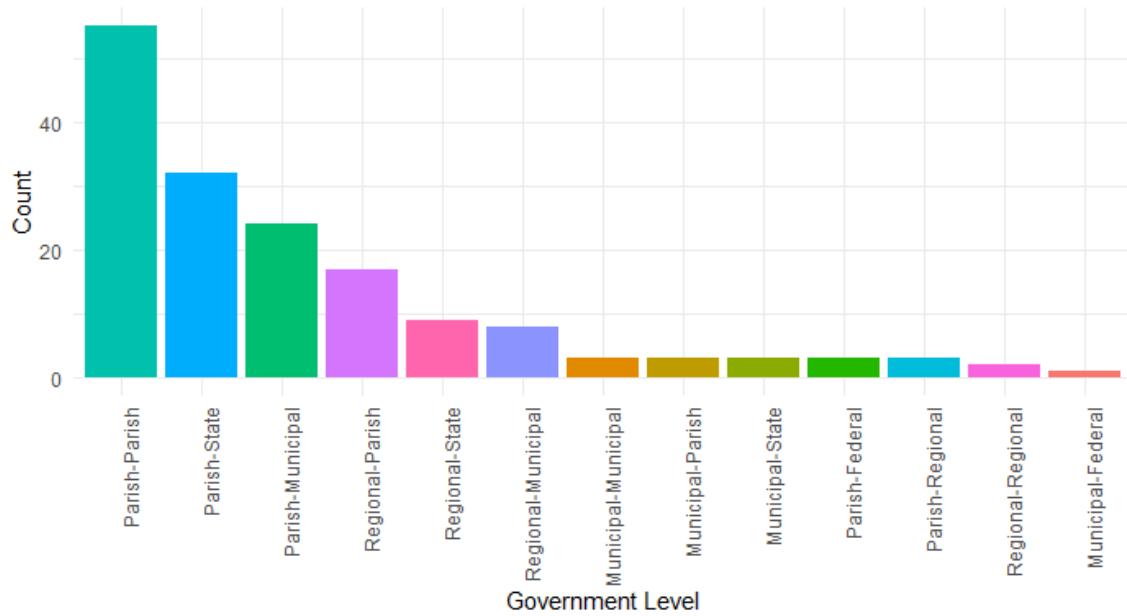
Complete Actor Network of Plans



Plan Network

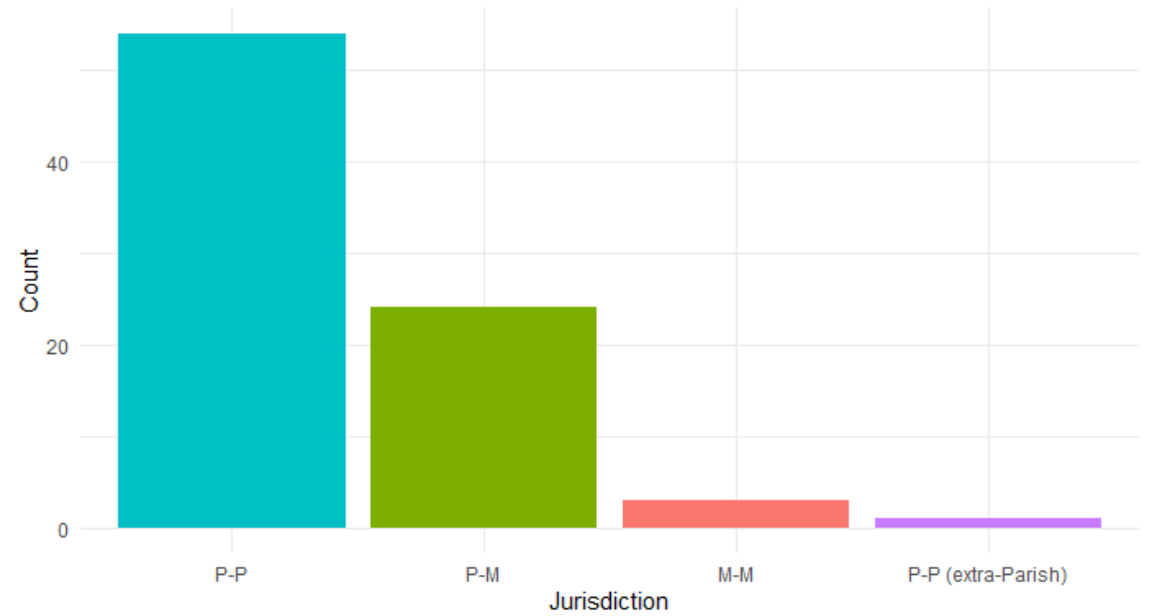
Plans to Plans: Tie Count by Government Level

Complete Plan Network



Local Plans to Plans: Tie Count by Jurisdiction

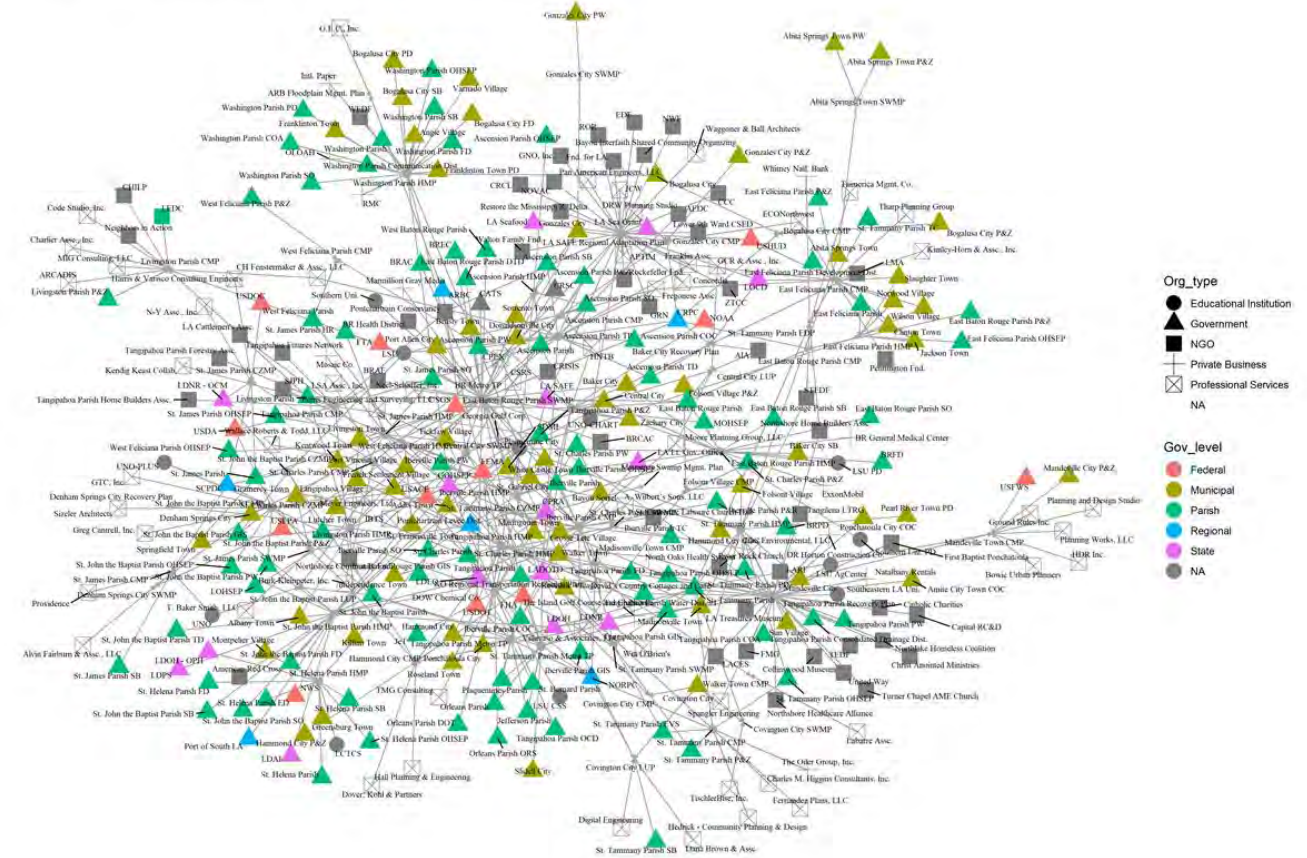
Complete Plan Network



Social Network Analysis of Plans

- What is the structure of intra-plan collaboration across watershed adjacent plans and among jurisdictions?
 - Identifying structure of participation in plans
 - Creating and graphing network data in KUMU or R
 - Comparing participation networks v. mention networks
 - Flagging relationships related to watersheds.

Actor-Plan Participation Network - All Organizations and Plans

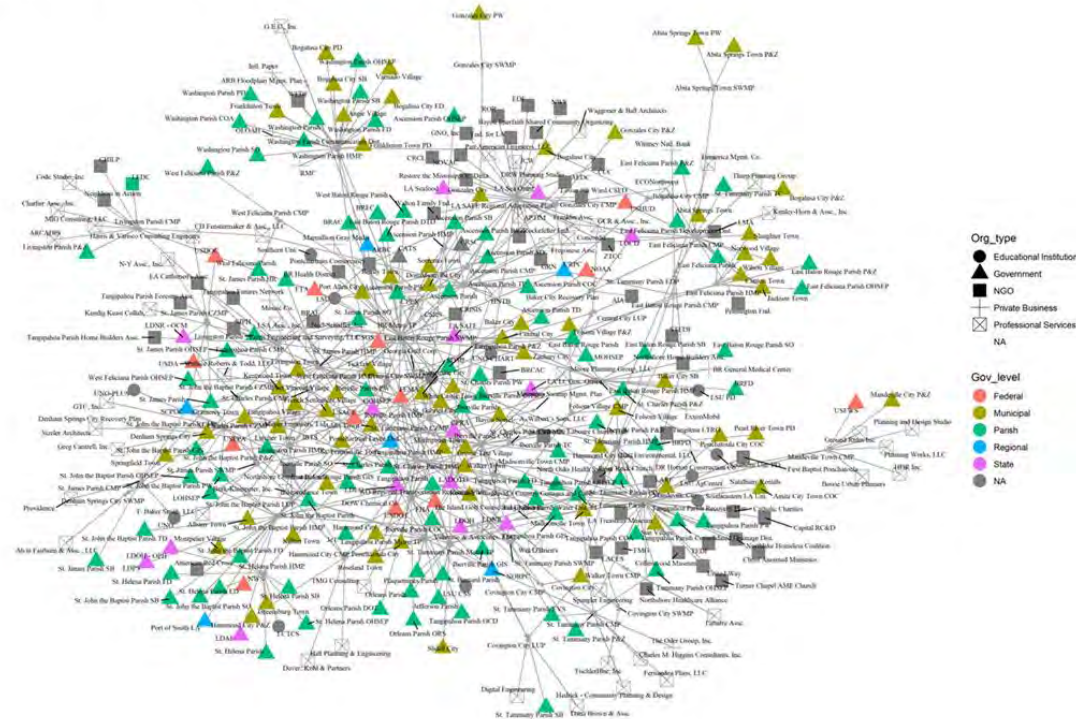


Network Centrality Measures

- **Who are the key stakeholders in the existing network of organizational coordination and collaboration of plans in Region 7?**
 - **Do the plans get it right?**
- Centrality measures of stakeholder analysis using statistical analysis in R:
 - Degree centrality – the number of ties a node has.
 - Actors with high degree centrality have a greater number of ties and are more involved and known to other actors in the network.
 - Betweenness centrality (brokerage) – the number of ties a node has between two nodes that are not connected themselves.
 - Actors with high betweenness centrality can control or increase flow of information between actors that would otherwise not be connected.
 - These actors, known as brokers or boundary spanners, bridge relationships and close gaps in governance and knowledge.
 - Closeness centrality - measures the distance between two nodes as the length of the shortest path between them. Closeness is the reciprocal of farness, the average distance from the node to all other nodes.
 - Eigenvector centrality - measures the number of ties each node has, but it also takes into account the level of degree of those nodes it is tied to. In other words, the node will have a higher value if it is tied to nodes with a high degree centrality compared to a low degree centrality value.

Gaps in Integration, Suggest a need for More Capacity

Actor-Plan Participation Network - All Organizations and Plans



Government

- Federal
- State
- Parish (13)
- Municipal (40+)

Gravity Drainage Districts

- 19 across the region
- Some are funded, some are not

Levee Districts

- Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East (Tangipahoa Levee District)
- Pontchartrain Levee District
- Atchafalaya Basin, Lafourche Basin, and Fifth Louisiana Levee District bars in the region

Planning and Development Dist.

- Capital Region Planning Commission
- South Central Region Planning and Development Commission
- New Orleans Regional Planning Commission

Soil, Water Conservation

- Amite River Basin Commission/Drainage and Water Conservation District
- Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts: Ascension, Lower Delta, New Orleans, Bogalusa, Chalmette, Lower River, Folsom, Tangipahoa-St. Helena

Others?

NGO's

- Center for Planning Excellence
- Mississippi River Delta Coalition (Ex: Pontchartrain Conservancy)
- Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy
- Foundation for Louisiana
- Sierra Club
- Housing Louisiana
- HealthyGulf
- Etc.

Home Builders

- Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge
- Northshore Home Builders Association

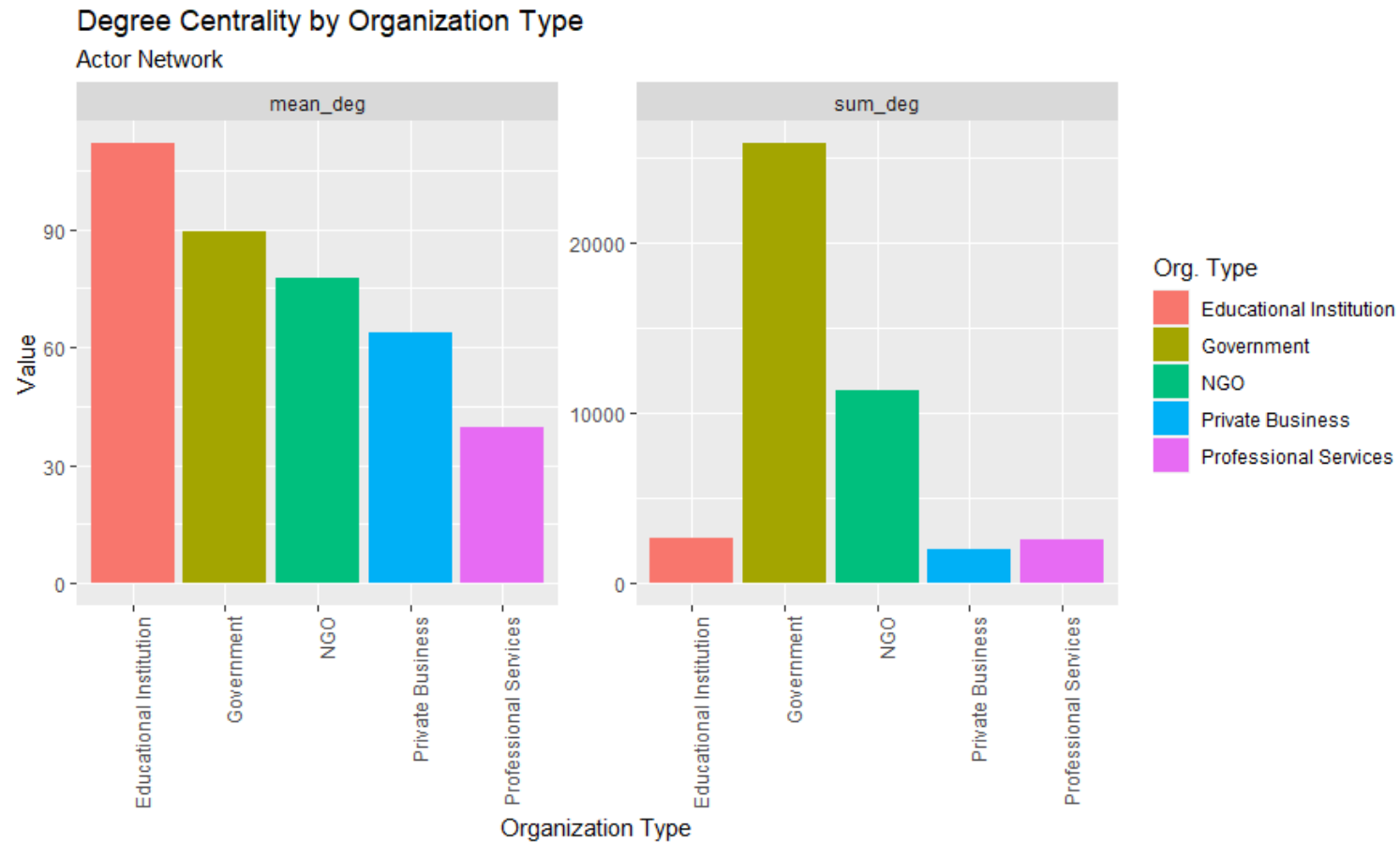
Others

- Neighborhood/Homeowner's Associations
- Technical firms/consultants
- Hypoxia Task Force
- Lower Mississippi River Conservation Commission
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance

- Certain Key Actor Groups Mentioned Very Scarcely in Existing Planning Documents

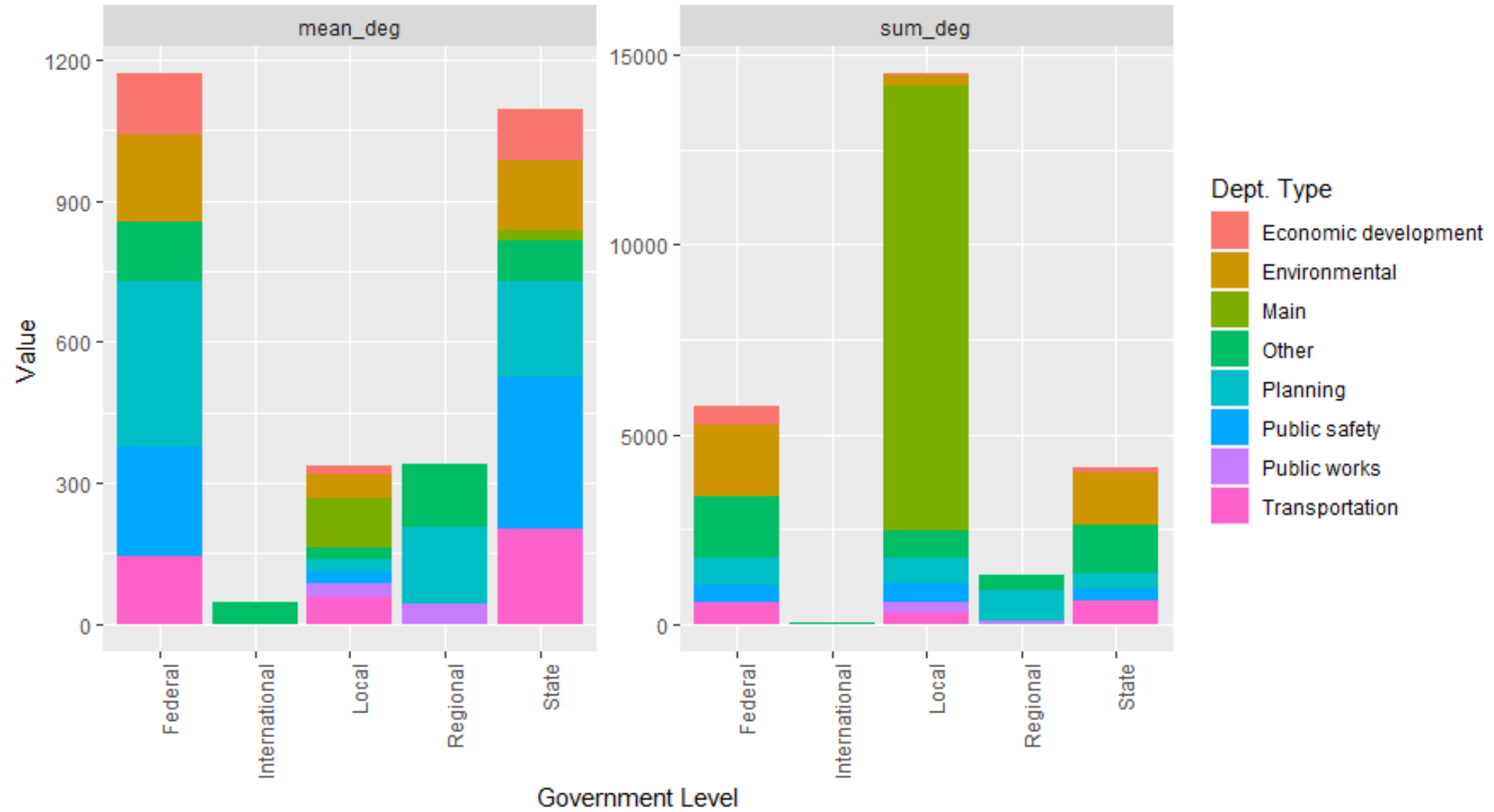


Identification of Key Actors to Facilitate Integration and Develop Capabilities

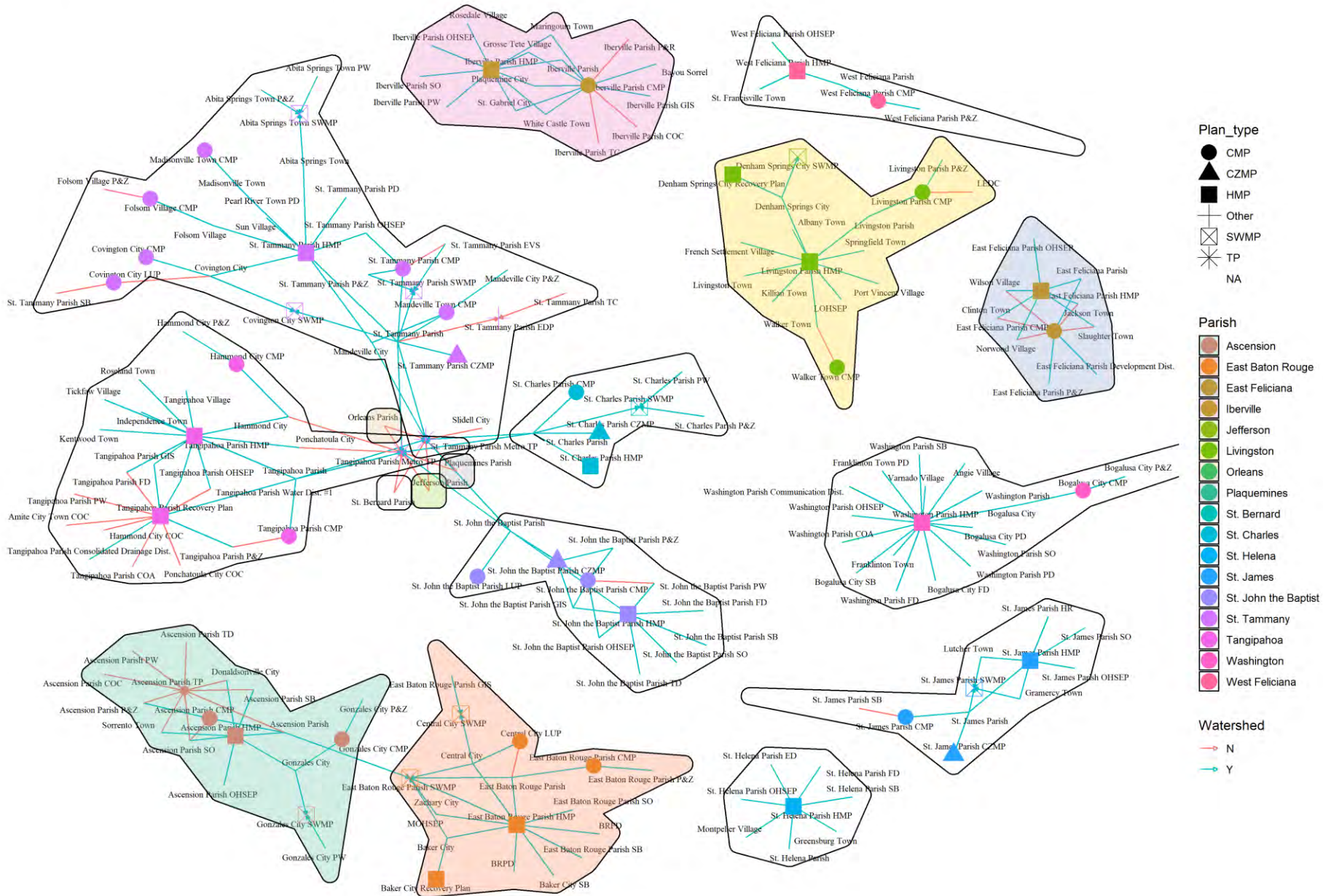


Degree Centrality by Government Level

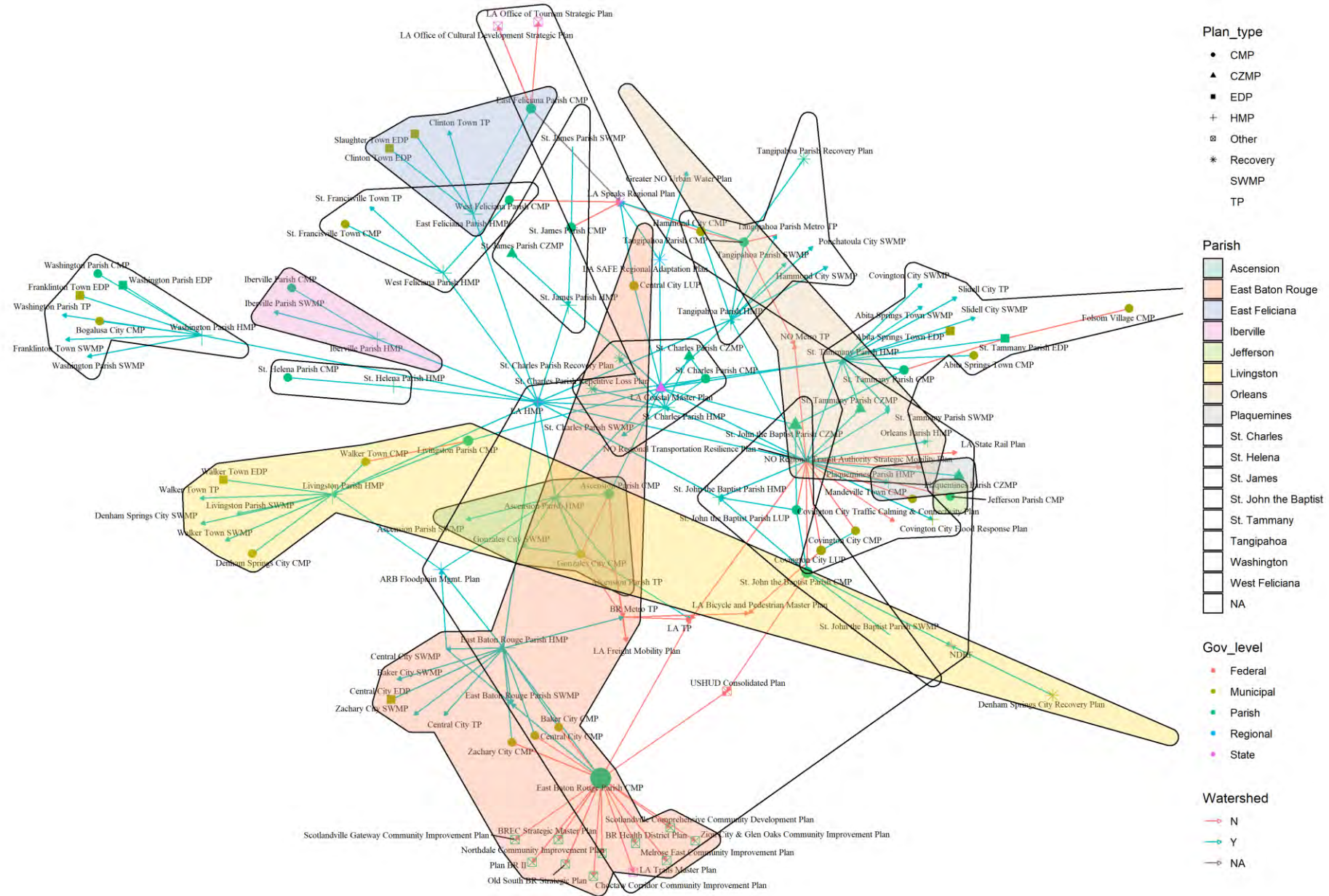
Actor Network



Actor-Plan Participation Network - Local Government Organizations and Plans



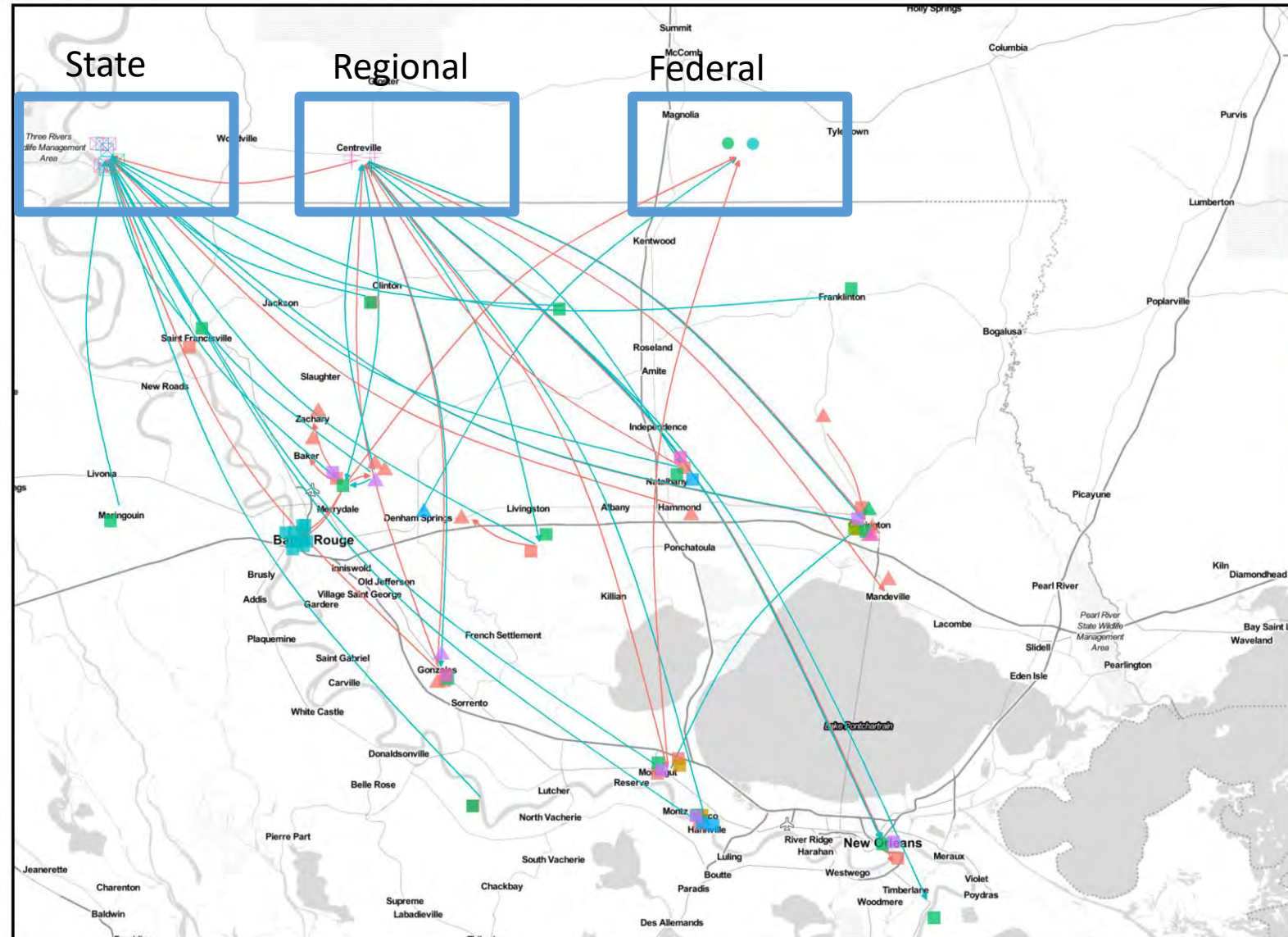
Plan Network



Vertical Coordination

LWI Region 7 Plan Network - Text References

- Regional:
 - MPOs
 - Regional Transportation Planning
 - Amite Basin Commission
- State
 - Resilience and Coastal Planning
 - Hazard Mitigation Planning



Plan Type

- Comprehensive/Master
- Hazard Mitigation
- Coastal Zone Management
- Stormwater Management
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Recovery
- Other

Government Level

- Federal
- Municipal
- Parish
- Regional
- State

Watershed

- N
- Y
- NA



Preliminary Conclusions

- Weak horizontal plan collaboration between different Parishes, but Parishes in the same metro-area are more likely to collaborate
- Federal, state, and regional organizations bridge the gaps between local government planning in different Parishes
- Data from the Louisiana Hazard Mitigation Plan and Coastal Master Plan are being incorporated into local hazard mitigation plans and comprehensive plans
- Local government organizations are the most involved in the planning network
 - Gaps with community-NGOs
 - Key bodies not integrated (formally into planning documents)
- Rural Parishes may need more resources to engage in planning

Summary

- Analysis of content and integration and comparison of policies/goals and actor/plan networks
- Developing Git-Hub with Documents, Methods, Scripts
- Stakeholder driven questions
- Final executive Summary – August 2021



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LSU

College of the Coast & Environment



4. Round 1 project selection process



Recap

March 23 discussion – project selection process

- Discussion and consensus exercise determined that the RSC would follow the state’s selection process. Some points from the discussion:
 - Only for round 1, this is an interim committee and the future committee will need to defend the process
 - Little time to create a region-specific process



Following the state's process

Recommendations from the project selection document - Pg. 24 Round 1 P&P

10.2 Watershed Regional Awards – up to \$5 Million per each of 8 Watershed Regions

In an effort to support and incentivize units of local government to implement programs and projects that actively consider flood risks through a watershed-based approach and organize as local and regional coalitions, provisional watershed regions will have the opportunity to participate in the selection of up to \$5 million in projects to be funded. This regional awards process will enable watershed regions that have developed a functional regional steering committee to select projects from those applications that meet a minimum threshold score, and recommend these projects to OCD for funding, as further detailed below.

Regional steering committees must complete the following steps in order to participate in the selection of watershed region projects:

1. **Membership:** Regional Steering Committee membership shall be finalized as indicated by a completed Steering Committee Guidance Work Sheet provided in the Regional Capacity Building Grant Program NOFA. This work sheet and any supplemental documentation must have been reviewed by the state for conformance with the state's membership guidance, re: verification of steering committee commitment and minimum requirements.
2. **Meeting:** At least one meeting with a quorum of members present must be held by May 29, 2020; and

3. **Regional Priorities:** The steering committees are encouraged to develop a process to establish regional priorities in order to select projects.
4. **Meeting Procedures:** Before their participation in the selection of projects to recommend for funding, the steering committee must adopt meeting and voting procedures. All meetings of the steering committee must be advertised and open to the public consistent with the Louisiana open meetings law.

Once the steering committee has demonstrated completion of the above steps (1-4 above), OCD will forward a list of eligible projects for each watershed region with their scores to each steering committee for their consideration and referral for funding. If the projects recommended by the region are not those projects scoring highest (under the states' scoring process) within the list of eligible projects for regional selection, the steering committee must provide written justification for their selections. Projects selected through this process must not exceed a total award amount of \$5 million per region. A project that benefits multiple watershed regions can be in the selection consideration of multiple regions. A project can be selected to receive funds from more than one region, but the project award size cannot exceed \$5 million from any single region. Watershed regions are encouraged to coordinate to ensure no duplication in project selection.

If the steering committee does not meet the formation/functional criteria set by the state by the anticipated award date, the state can offer an extension based on demonstrated progress and a clear timeline. LWI agencies staff will assist with steering committee meeting facilitation and participation in the watershed project selection process, including the development of regional priorities.

Notices of awards to selected projects will be issued by OCD which will contain terms and conditions that must be satisfied for the project to proceed and be eligible for reimbursement of costs.

Funds can return to the state selection process in the cases of an established deadline for round 1 regional awards or if a region does not have eligible projects up to \$5 million. The state may either select the projects to be funded through the regional award process in round 1 or increase the funds available for rounds 2 or 3.



Following the state's process

Recommendations from the project selection document

1. The region will select those projects scoring the highest from the list of eligible projects for regional Round 1 funding from OCD.
2. In the event that highest ranked projects do not add up to a cumulative amount of exactly \$5 million, and the next ranking project would result in awards greater than \$5 million within the region, the region may recommend to award the remaining balance of the \$5 million to a lower ranking project that does not result in aggregate awards exceeding \$5 million, or forego awarding the remaining funds, thereby returning the funds to the state selection process.
3. In the event of a tie, the region will defer to the state to break the tie.



Vote

Project selection process

- Vote: The region will recommend projects for funding based on the established LWI Round 1 project selection process and criteria.
 - Yay = in favor
 - Nay = opposed to doing this
- RSC members can come off mute to state their vote or they can put it in the chat pod
- Reminder: One vote per member affiliation



Vote

Project selection process

- The region will recommend projects for funding based on the established LWI Round 1 project selection process and criteria.

AFFILIATION	VOTE	AFFILIATION	VOTE
Ascension Parish	Yay	St. John the Baptist Parish	Absent
East Baton Rouge Parish	Yay	St. Tammany Parish	Yay
East Feliciana	Absent	Tangipahoa Parish	Yay
Iberville Parish	Yay	Washington Parish	Absent
Livingston Parish	Yay	West Feliciana Parish	Yay
St. Charles Parish	Yay	Amite River Basin Commission	Yay
St. Helena Parish	Yay	Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge	Yay
St. James Parish	Absent	Pontchartrain Conservancy and Tangipahoa Parish Council	Yay





5. Additional voting items



Vice chair

Nominations and vote

NAME OF NOMINEE	ACCEPTS NOMINATION?	RECORDED VOTES
Bridget Bailey	Yes	
Ronny Carter	No	
Karen Zito	No	

- RSC members can come off mute to state their vote or they can put it in the chat pod
- Reminder: One vote per member affiliation



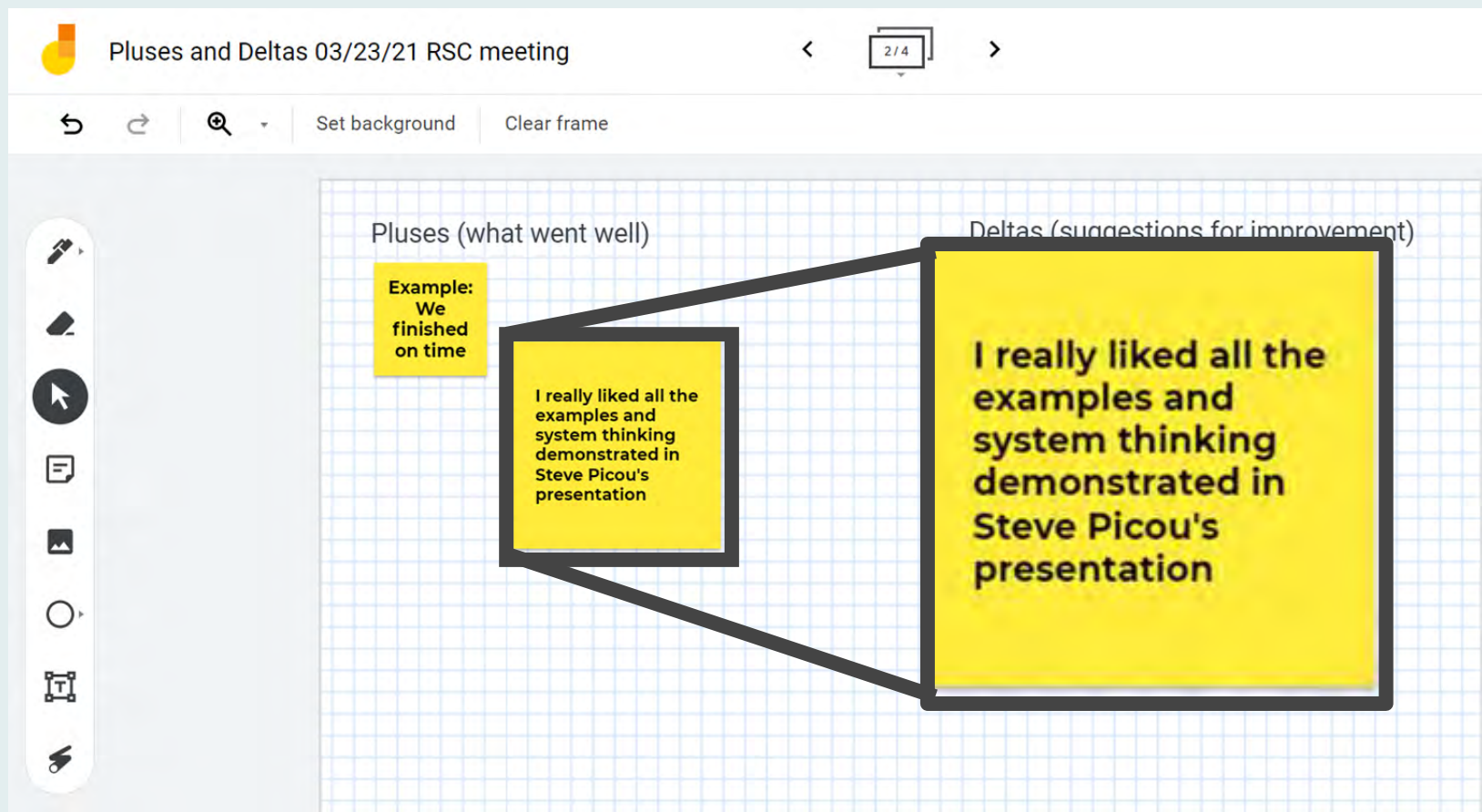


6. Public comment



Feedback from previous meeting

Feedback from last meeting's pluses and deltas board.



The screenshot shows a Miro board titled "Pluses and Deltas 03/23/21 RSC meeting". The board is divided into two columns: "Pluses (what went well)" and "Deltas (suggestions for improvement)".

Pluses (what went well):

- Example: We finished on time
- I really liked all the examples and system thinking demonstrated in Steve Picou's presentation

Deltas (suggestions for improvement):

- I really liked all the examples and system thinking demonstrated in Steve Picou's presentation

The board interface includes a toolbar on the left with various drawing tools and a top navigation bar with a search icon, "Set background", and "Clear frame" options. A page indicator shows "2/4".



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

- Consider in person meeting?
- Adoption of March 23 meeting minutes
- Upcoming meetings:
 - May 25 from 1 to 3:30pm
 - June 29 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

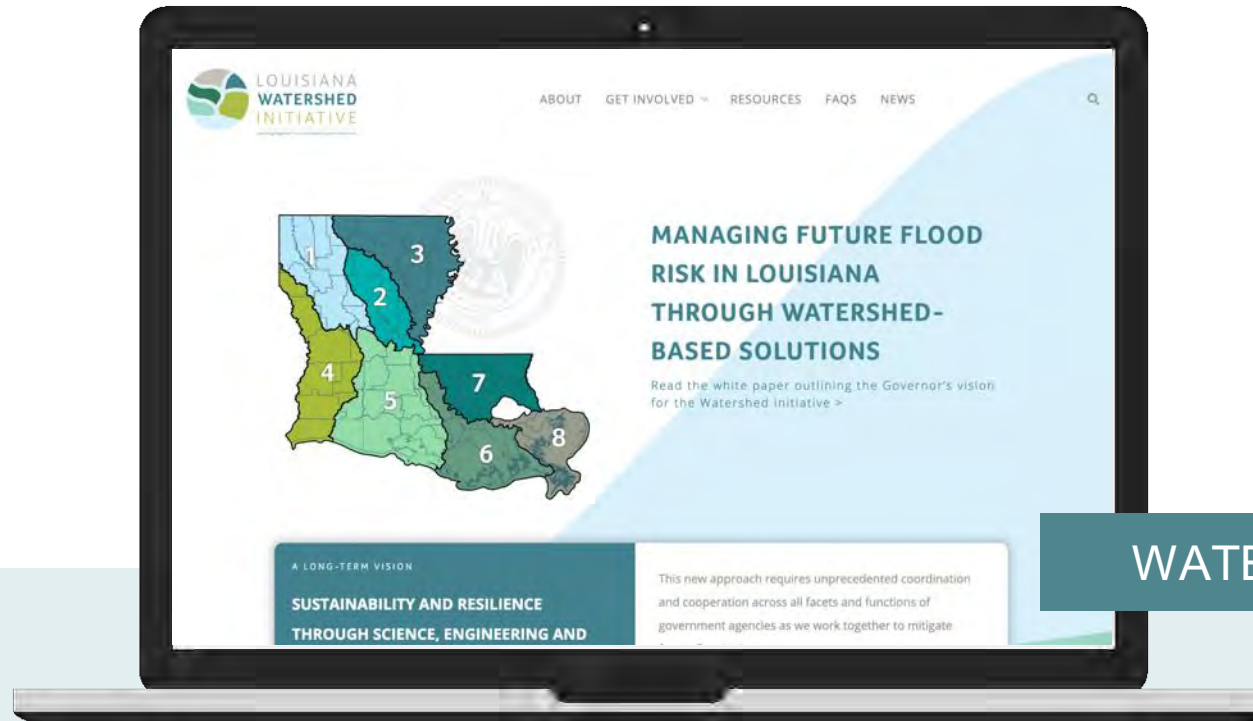


 @LAWATERSHEDINITIATIVE

 @LAWATERSHED

 WATERSHED@LA.GOV

THANK YOU



Idea Marina



Define Coastal areas by various factors (Deitmar question)



REGION 7

MAY 25 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

THANK YOU

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

THANK YOU AND ICEBREAKER

Thank you for being with us today.

Icebreaker: Did you experience impacts (or are you currently) of flooding in your Parish or community week? Where? How long?

RECAP

- Significant, regional flood events swept through South Louisiana within the past few weeks
 - Largely due to the interconnected hydrological and atmospheric systems
 - From air to earth relationship
 - The flood event resulted from increased rainfall totals
 - Led to coastal and backwater flooding
- It has been 1 year since RSC started
- In 2020 we...
 - Defined visions, values and goals
 - Identified root causes of flooding and opportunities to address challenges



- Discussed regional boundaries
- Determined what the region wants to fund and the functions of regional work
- Developed governance models to include technical experts, elected officials, and everyday citizens
- In 2021 we...
 - Discussed and voted on provisional governance recommendation
 - Discussed the regional Round 1 project selection process
 - Reviewed potential long-term funding opportunities
 - Discussed Round 1 project selection process, and leverage state's process
 - Voted on Round 1 project selection process

UPDATES

- WaterOpps Workshop
 - Purpose: Receive feedback for the benefit of the provisional governance recommendation
 - Municipal WaterOpps Workshop (May 19)
 - 22 registered, 8 attended
 - Community WaterOpps Workshop (May 20)
 - 42 registered, 12 attended
- Funding Opportunities and Capacity Building
 - Georgetown Climate Center Affordable Housing & Flood Risk
 - Second work group meeting is in June
 - Strategies research from GCC graduate students in South Eastern U.S.
 - Constructing a vision/strategy hybrid document
 - Resilience Roadmap work with EPA
 - Forming an advisory group
 - Planning for first meeting to be in June
 - Environmental Finance Centers
 - Note – no cost to the region, it is solely an additional capacity building support
 - Development and implementation of a regional workshop in the fall or winter that will inform the aforementioned efforts, the regional watershed planning process, and direction of specific programming and activities moving forward.
 - Purpose: Provide a coordination and collaboration space for partners across the region
- Transition Team
 - Developing relevant documents for transitioning
 - Starting with the bylaws
 - Will be presented to RSC to request for feedback on composition of watershed governance body in the near future



UPDATES FROM RSC & GROUP

- Jonathan Leo: Testified in the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission hearing to approve a \$7.95MM 3 year plan to install water meters on all industrial, public, and private water purveyor, and other wells for the first time.

FEEDBACK ON PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

- Purpose: Find ways to discuss how our structured decision-making models plug into planning and regulatory questions and how they intersect systemically.
- Outreach metrics:
 - Total participants: 117
 - 24 1-on-1 meetings
 - Includes: elected officials, staffers, committees/councils, and NGOs
 - 2 workshops
 - 1 community focused
 - 1 municipal focused
- Representation of position on feedback of provisional governance recommendation:
 - Majority leaned towards support of the recommendation

Note 1: Comments are not verbatim

Note 2: Due to time constraints, not all items were discussed. However, the document with all items were shared for those who would like to provide feedback about particular items.

Item	Comments
“Capacity building and support (including for project design) to level the playing field and incorporate best practices to be able to submit applications”	-Concerns were expressed about language of the text (Specifically “including for project design”) -Other concerns expressed were about possible conflicting authorities, unclear responsibilities and roles, competitive limitation recognition, funding mechanisms, uncertainties, possible creation of unnecessary, redundant steps, and language being too general and can be interpreted in many ways -A possible solution mentioned was to reword the text so it will be interpreted as capacity building and support for project design for parishes who would benefit from additional assistance
“Support for better, consistent, and more clear flood resilient	-A concern mentioned was not wanting costly additions that impact end user in a poor way -Need consistency between parish and municipalities -Needed for smaller parishes



standards for subdivision and drainage regulations”	
“Repository of technical data and information, including models at the state-level”	-St. James provided an elevation map on their website to allow folks accessibility and information they need to prepare for flooding -Having accessible information that can be shared to folks as needed is important for major events like flooding -Support expressed for fact based solutions to leverage collaboration
“Guidance on how to use model data and information”	-Models must be updated frequently because it may be outdated and not useful for long. If models are outdated, it can be misinterpreted from parties who do not understand the setbacks which is a limitation. -Solution suggested was to provide internal use education regarding how to use it and how convey it to public properly -Consistency in modeling should be made throughout regions so there is no conflict, and allow information to be transferable on all platforms.
“Local government capacity building and training on flooding, resilience, climate”	-Stay within context of existing trainings/certifications -Allow it (training) to apply towards CRS ratings and or credits for certifications
“Minimum standard requirements to be able to access funds”	-Do not duplicate requirements -Be more specific -This item is beneficial because it levels the playing field to ensure undue competition in the future both for economic development and safety mitigations -UNO CHART : CRS has began the process implementing a statewide strategy that everyone has to adopt to maintain a certain class status Purpose – create project selection process to guide selection
“Upstream/downstream coordination”	-Suggestion: Define to what extent this applies to

- Moving forward
 - Vote on a final provisional governance recommendation document during June meeting

FEEDBACK ON REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

Background

- In past meetings, there was a divergence on if the current boundaries of the region should be maintained. The majority is positioned for the region to keep its current boundaries instead of divide into Regions 7A and 7B.



Feedback

- Comments for maintaining the current regional boundaries
 - Seems appropriate way to govern the region
 - We already collaborate transportation wise, however not necessarily to the same extent in the watershed
 - Collaboration among the watershed should therefore be feasible
 - St. John – likes boundaries, understands competition, the more lines you draw, coordination and entities will create unnecessary, complicated layers
 - Water does NOT respect political boundaries
 - Solutions will have to be more comprehensive than situational
 - Viewing neighbors as partners rather than competition
- Comments supporting the division of the region
 - ARBC worried about competition of multiple entities and where power lies
 - Concern about competition for funds and projects
 - If split, then concerns about communication division, and having to reallocate resources

Consensus Exercise for maintaining the same boundaries. The consensus counts below are based on what was recorded in the chat. One RSC member verbally could not support the effort.

- Fully support: 8 RSC members (noted in chat by replying with the number 3)
- Support with reservations: 2 RSC members (noted in chat by replying with the number 2)
- Cannot support: 1 RSC members (verbal statement)

Dietmar Rietschier, Executive Director of Amite River Basin Commission, asked that it be stated by the record how many Regional Steering Committee members were online during the time of the consensus exercise. 11 out of 16 Regional Steering Committee members were online. 9 members are required for a quorum. Please note that the RSC usually has 17 members and that the open position was filled during this meeting.

BYLAWS UPDATE

- Current bylaws text: “This Committee will dissolve Spring/Summer 2021, unless extended by OCD or the RSC, upon determination of an appropriate long-term watershed coalition framework.”
 - Notes:
 - This change is anticipated to take place Winter 2021/2022, removing a timeframe offers flexibility
 - Need appropriate documents (updated bylaws) in place
 - Can operate (not to full extent) prior to legislation

ADOPTION OF BYLAWS UPDATE EXTENSION TO SUMMER 2022

Ross Liner calls for motion
Bridget Bailey motioned



Major Coleman seconded
No objections, motion passed

MEMBER POSITION

Ivy Mathieu has been selected to fill the vacant RSC member position

- Currently, Vice Chair on the St. John Coastal Advisory Committee.
- Currently, Secretary for Keep St. John Beautiful.
- Board of Louisiana Recycling Coalition (formerly the Secretary).
- Louisiana Federal Credit Union Supervisory Committee (responsible for auditing and overseeing operating procedures).
- St. John Healthy Community Committee
- Partnered with Amanda Moore of National Wildlife Federation to shape/influence the policies of the Coastal Master Plan to be "People Centric"---on going dialogue.
- Former volunteer efforts: Child Advocate (CASA); Lead the Coast inaugural committee.
- Current member of Region 7 Transition Team

PUBLIC COMMENT + REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

Request for feedback on our board:

https://jamboard.google.com/d/1RZKSoL42wXUgDP2tYcYNbZ_hXXdocS5_fcOD_2TzFUE/edit?usp=sharing

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MEETING CLOSEOUT

Council Watershed meeting

May 27 at 9:00 AM

Adoption of April 22nd meeting minutes

Upcoming meetings:

June 29 from 1-3:30 PM

ADOPTION OF MAY 25 MEETING MINUTES

Ross Liner called for motion.



Major Coleman motioned.
Earl Matherne 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

Provisional Governance Recommendation Feedback 05252021

MEETING CHAT

00:41:48Rachelle Sanderson: Welcome everyone, please put your name and affiliation in the chat pod. We're glad you're here today!

00:42:12Bobbi Jo Breland: Bobbi Jo Breland

00:42:13John Clark: John Clark, Iberville Parish

00:42:24Jenny Schexnayder: Jenny Schexnayder, Nicholls State University

00:42:25Honora Buras: Honora Buras, CPRA

00:42:29Major Coleman: Major is here

00:42:40Bobbi Jo Breland: Bobbi Jo, Breland Washington Parish OHSEP

00:42:51Gary Mego: Gary Mego, West Feliciana Parish

00:43:06Ronny Carter: Ronny Carter LPBF

00:43:11Evelyn Campo: Evelyn Campo, OCD

00:43:18Rene Pastorek: Rene Pastorek, St. John Parish

00:43:18Allison Haertling: Allison Haertling, UNO-CHART

00:44:15Jonathan Leo: Jonathan S. Leo, EBR Parish, Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition Steering Committee; Louisiana Environmental Action Network

00:44:35Devin Foil: Devin A. Foil, HNTB

00:44:39Chris Shalohm: Chris Shalohm, CRPC

00:45:05Alex Sumrall: Alex Sumrall WPG

00:45:05Earl Matherne: Earl Matherne, St. Charles Parish

00:45:11Fred raiford: Fred Raiford

00:45:15Steve Kistler: Steve Kistler from Livingston

00:45:19gina campo: Gina Campo, OCD

00:45:28Jenna Linn: Jenna Linn, ARBC

00:45:42Erin Schilling: Erin Schilling, Dana Brown & Associates



00:46:53Drew Ratcliff: Drew Ratcliff, CRPC

00:46:58Rachelle Sanderson:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54cbd54fe4b047a0380cae54/t/60ad0437b5c5c00cd7323bc0/1621951543534/Provisional+Gov.+Rec.+Feedback+05252021.pdf>

00:47:16Karen Zito: Karen Zito

00:47:30Karen Zito: Karen Zito - Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge

01:02:07Jenny Schexnayder: Thank you Ryan! I'm a resident of St. James Parish and agree with your comments.

01:03:53Honora Buras: I actually had floodwater backing up close to my roadway for several weeks before it went under last Monday night (knee deep since then). I was getting on average 2 inches of rain per day. Then 11 inches Monday night.

01:05:36Lionel Johnson: Mayor Lionel Johnson - St. Gabriel

01:05:51Jonathan Leo: I'm Jonathan Leo from East Baton Rouge Parish, near the Perkins Rowe commercial development east of the Perkins-Bluebonnet intersection. Dawson Creek (to our immediate N/NW) did NOT flood, as I'm told it did in 2016. However, throughout a roughly 5 square mile area from Lee/College on the west to Pecue on the east, I witnessed actual flooding as well as some of its residential damage consequences (i.e., 3-5 foot-high piles of carpeting, furniture, and other household goods piled on front lawns next to curbs in many neighborhoods). A low-lying multi-unit apartment building complex immediately south of I-10 on Siegen Lane was submerged half way (or more) up the doors and walls of ground floor apartments and the parking lot with dozens of cars was flooded up to the windows or higher of all vehicles I could see. Several groups of people (almost all of them African-American) were wading through waist-high water with black plastic bags over their heads or on their shoulders, trying to make it out of the parking lot

01:06:52Lionel Johnson: we have residential developments with sitting water of 3 to 4 feet with some residents not able to get in or out of these developments.

01:13:22Rachelle Sanderson: rsanderson@crpcla.org

01:14:39Jonathan Leo: I testified at last week's Capitol Area Groundwater Conservation Commission hearing, where the Commission voted 9-7 to approve a \$7.85MM-3 year plan to install water meters on all industrial, public and private water purveyor, and other wells FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS 50-YEAR HISTORY. This outcome was, in part, a result of the Commission's reaction to the scathing 2019 Legislative Auditor's Report.

01:17:37Rachelle Sanderson:

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01:23:21Rachelle Sanderson:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54cbd54fe4b047a0380cae54/t/60ad0437b5c5c00cd7323bc0/1621951543534/Provisional+Gov.+Rec.+Feedback+05252021.pdf>

01:25:41John Clark: I apologize, but I must leave the meeting. Our best to everyone.

01:32:18Rachelle Sanderson: That's what we were hearing from folks. Thank you for articulating that so well, Bridget.

01:33:35Jonathan Leo: Fred Raiford's remarks about potentially duplicative, if not conflicting, existing parish-level legal requirements (as well as Army Corps of Engineers' regs) -- with regard to project design standards and implementation -- is an example of the separately mentioned concern about LWI measures that create inter-jurisdictional conflicts. These kinds of examples are very important to identify and articulate.



01:36:56Earl Matherne: I am ok with “conceptual design”

01:37:12Rachelle Sanderson: Thanks, Jon and Earl - I have this noted

01:39:16Honora Buras: I agree with what Evelyn is saying. We need to break down some of these silos and business as usual that are not working.

01:40:42Rachelle Sanderson: Thanks, Honora! Breaking down silos!

01:41:53Jonathan Leo: I don't know Louisiana law well enough to know whether there is state law that controls (and may preempt) parish and municipal laws on flood control or other watershed management measures and, thereby, could limit LWI's ability to influence (identify, promote, and implement) better management practices. Evelyn's remarks are important because we DO need to identify existing and controlling rules and regulations at every relevant state and federal jurisdictional level that we regard as "bad," "outdated," and/or counter-productive.

01:47:28Honora Buras: There could be assistance with model ordinances, for example.

01:49:06Jonathan Leo: Agreed, Honora. That's an excellent example of legal-regulatory "capacity building"

01:49:42Rachelle Sanderson: Thanks y'all. good to hear that explicit feedback

01:52:13Ryan Larousse:

<https://stjamesgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b14f1ed2381443149f5820e4be7ec0cb>

02:11:59Allison Haertling: Allison Haertling - UNO-CHART: ahaert1@uno.edu

02:12:33Rene Pastorek: 100% agreed Evelyn.

02:20:41Karen Zito: Yes I'm good to scan feedback

02:34:02Bobbi Jo Breland: conceptual design

02:36:15Gary Mego: 2

02:42:49Rene Pastorek: 3

02:42:51Ross Liner: 3

02:42:57Earl Matherne: 3

02:43:01Bobbi Jo Breland: 3

02:43:10Alex Sumrall: 3

02:43:13Bridget Bailey: 3

02:43:17Ryan Larousse: 3

02:43:23Steve Kistler: 2

02:43:32Rachelle Sanderson: Major - 3

02:53:28Rachelle Sanderson:

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02:53:57Devin Foil: Glad to see Ivy on the RSC

02:56:07Rachelle Sanderson: <https://www.watershed.la.gov/calendar/event/7434/>



LWI Region 7 Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting

MAY 25, 2021

RACHELLE SANDERSON, CRPC

KIM MAROUSEK, CRPC

JAMIE SETZE, CRPC

EVELYN CAMPO, OCD

NICOLETTE JONES, OCD

VICTORIA NGUYEN, CRPC AND LSU



LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

working together for sustainability and resilience



AGENDA

1. Introductions and meeting logistics
2. Past meetings recap, reminders, updates
3. Feedback on provisional governance recommendation
4. Bylaws update and open RSC position
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



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

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
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
Ronny Carter and/or Kim Coates	Pontchartrain Conservancy and Tangipahoa Parish Council



Regional flooding lately...

- We've slept many nights since our first introduction so here's a reminder that...

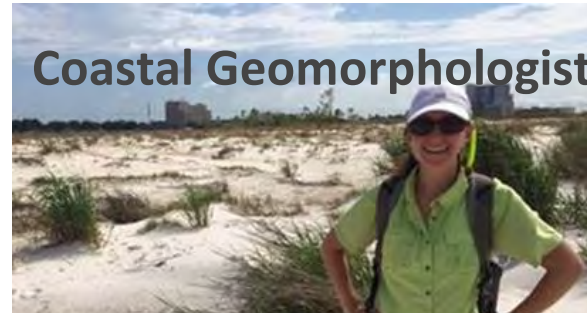


ASSOCIATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICERS

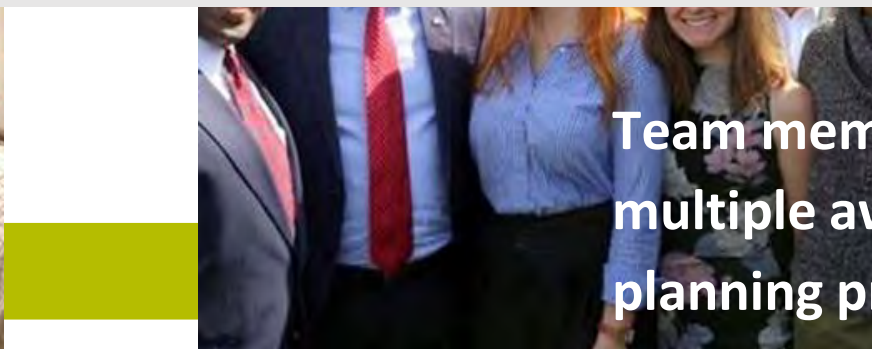
Lincoln, W. S., R. F. L. Thomason, 2018: A preliminary look at using rainfall average recurrence interval to characterize flash flood events for real-time warning forecasting. *J. Operational Meteor.*, 6 (2), 13-22, doi: <https://doi.org/10.15191/nwajom.2018.0602>



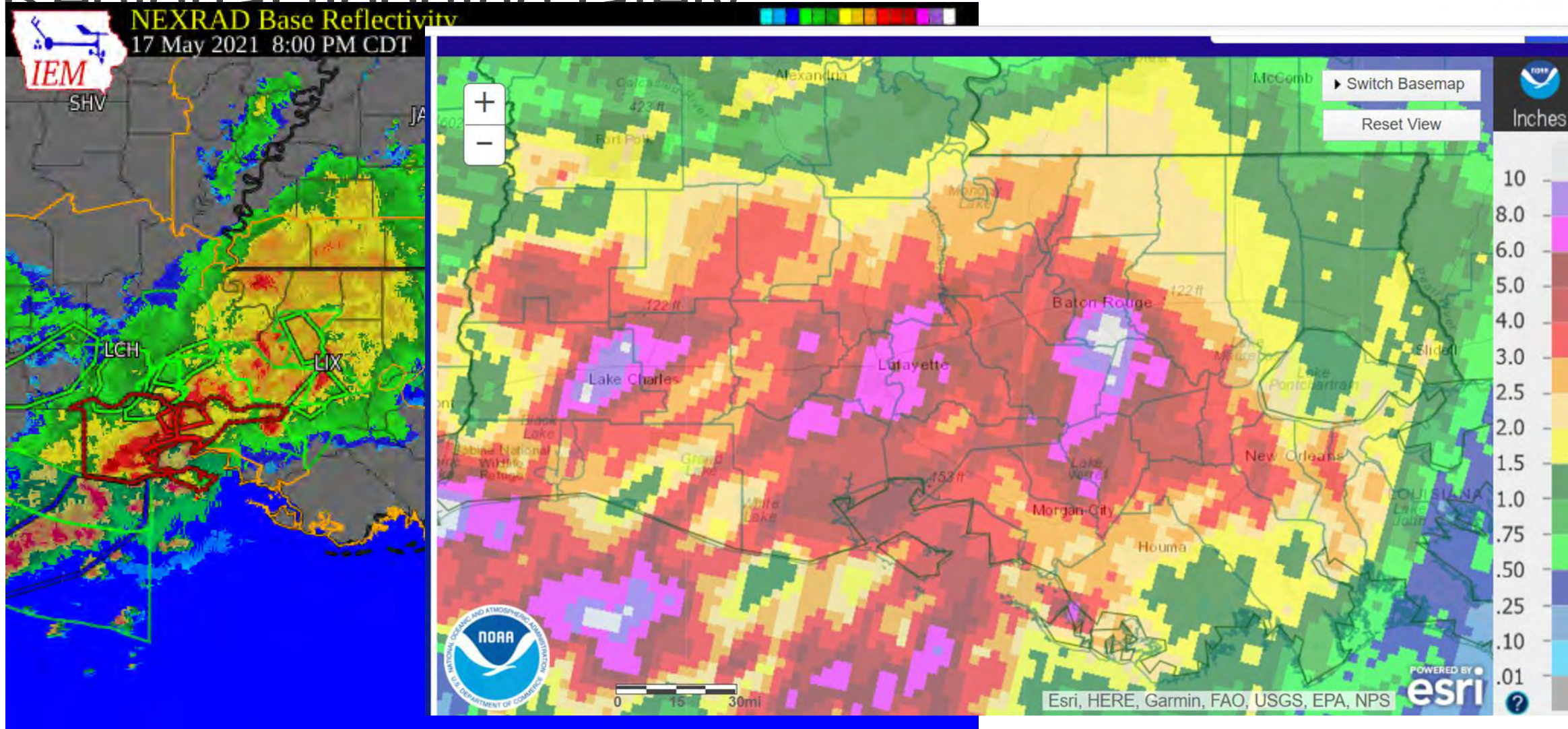
A Preliminary Look at Using Rainfall Average Recurrence Interval to Characterize Flash Flood Events for Real-time Warning Forecasting



Two degrees, multiple years of diverse experience does not equate to generational knowledge of Louisiana

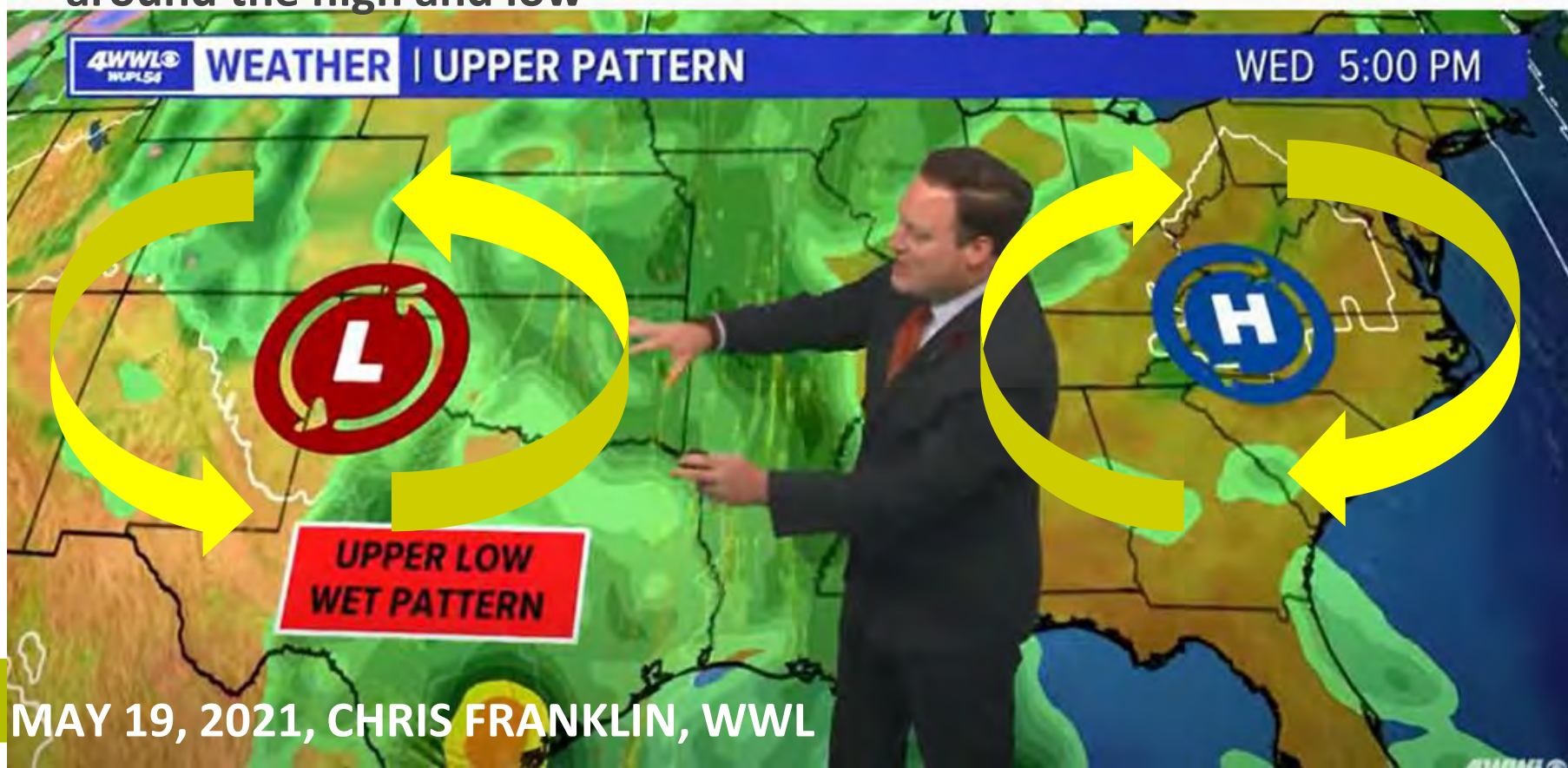


Regional flooding lately



Regional flooding lately...

- Rainfall... “Deep moisture convergence” + instability = slow moving storms with a lot of rain
- Coastal flooding... between the funnel of low and high pressure building in (winds flowing around the high and low)



CONNECTED WEATHER PATTERNS LED TO FLOODING FROM RAINFALL EARLY IN THE WEEK, RIVERINE FLOODING MID-WEEK, AND FLOODING FROM THE SEA LATER IN THE WEEK



Thank you & a quick icebreaker

- For being with us today
- Did you experience impacts (or are you currently) of flooding your Parish or community week? Where? How long?



Baton Rouge, WBRZ



Tangipahoa, Kim Coates



St. Tammany, Jessica Simms



St. John the Baptist, The Advocate





2. Past meetings recap, reminders, updates



Updates

Other events

- **Municipal WaterOpps Workshop (May 19)**

- 22 registered

- 8 were able to make it from... Denham Springs, Madisonville, Slidell, Baker, Livingston, Covington, and St. Tammany

- **Community WaterOpps Workshop (May 20)**

- 42 registered

- 12 were able to make it from... LaPlace, Baton Rouge, Prarieville, etc.



Updates

Funding opportunities, capacity building

- **Georgetown Climate Center Affordable Housing & Flood Risk**
 - Second work group meeting is in June
 - Research from GCC students on strategies across SE US states
 - Hybrid deliverable of visioning/strategy document
- **Resilience Roadmap work with EPA**
 - Working on putting together an advisory group, anticipating the first meeting in June
- **Environmental Finance Centers**
 - No cost to the region, additional capacity building support
 - Development and implementation of a regional workshop in the fall/winter that will inform aforementioned efforts, the regional watershed planning process, and direction of specific programming and activities moving forward. Meant to provide a coordination and collaboration space for partners across the region



Updates

Transition Team

- **Will tackle relevant documents for transitioning one at a time**
 - **Starting with bylaws**
 - **Will come to RSC with a request for feedback on composition of watershed governance body in the near future**



Updates

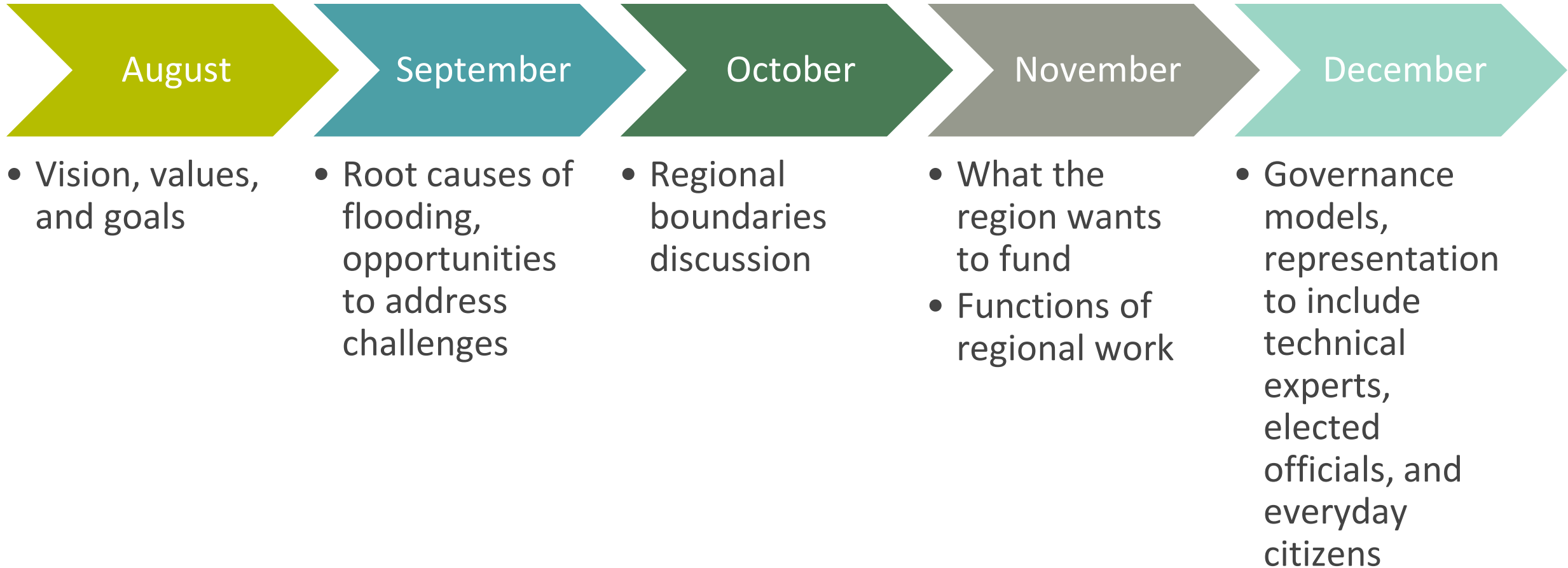
Open call for updates

- **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**



A quick recap...

2020



A quick recap...

January

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

February

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

March

- Learn about potential long-term funding opportunities
- Discuss Round 1 project selection process, leverage state's process

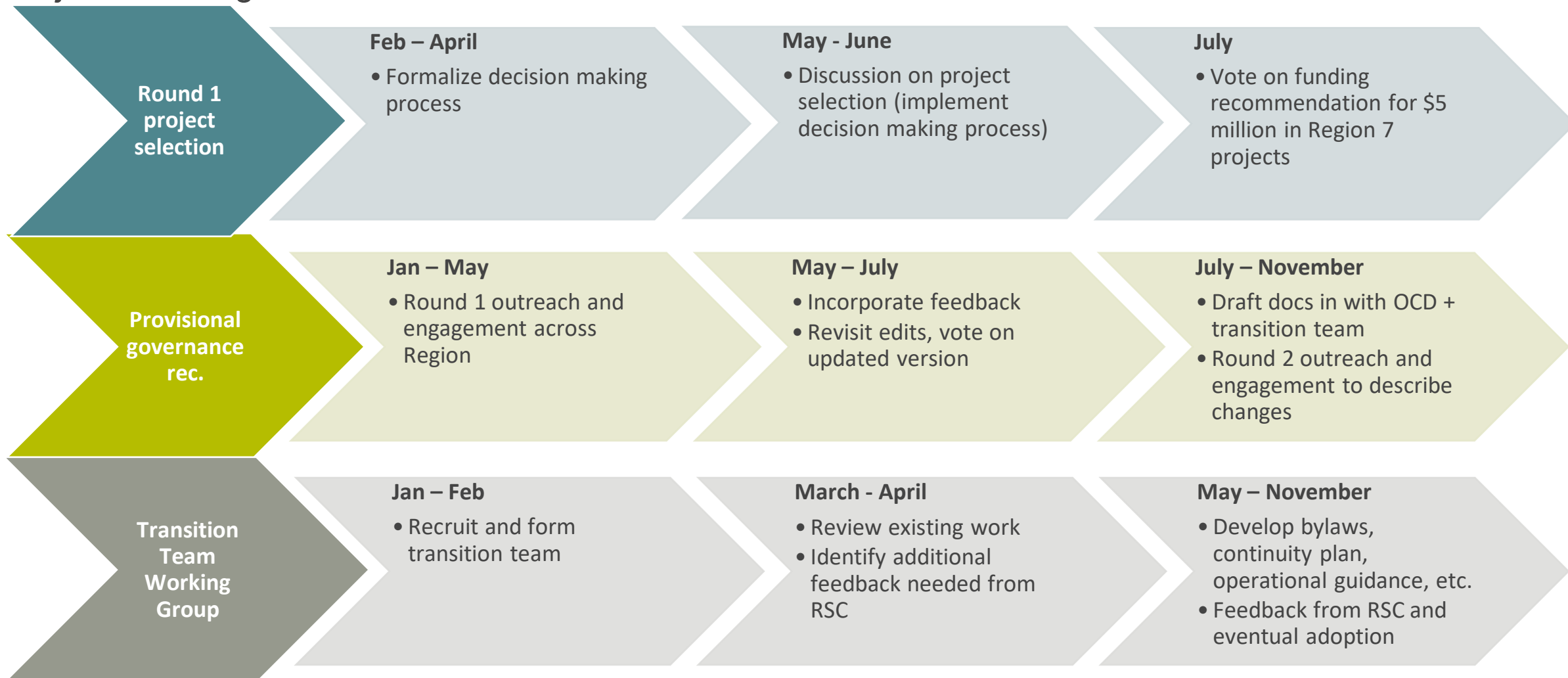
April

- Vote on round 1 project selection process



Future work

subject to change



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.
- 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





3. Feedback on provisional governance recommendation



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

Outreach metrics between February 8 and May 20, 2021

117



Total number of people engaged

24



One-to-one meetings
- Elected officials
- Staffers
- Committees/Councils
- NGOs

2



Workshops
- 1 municipal focused
- 1 community focused



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

We're still incorporating comments...

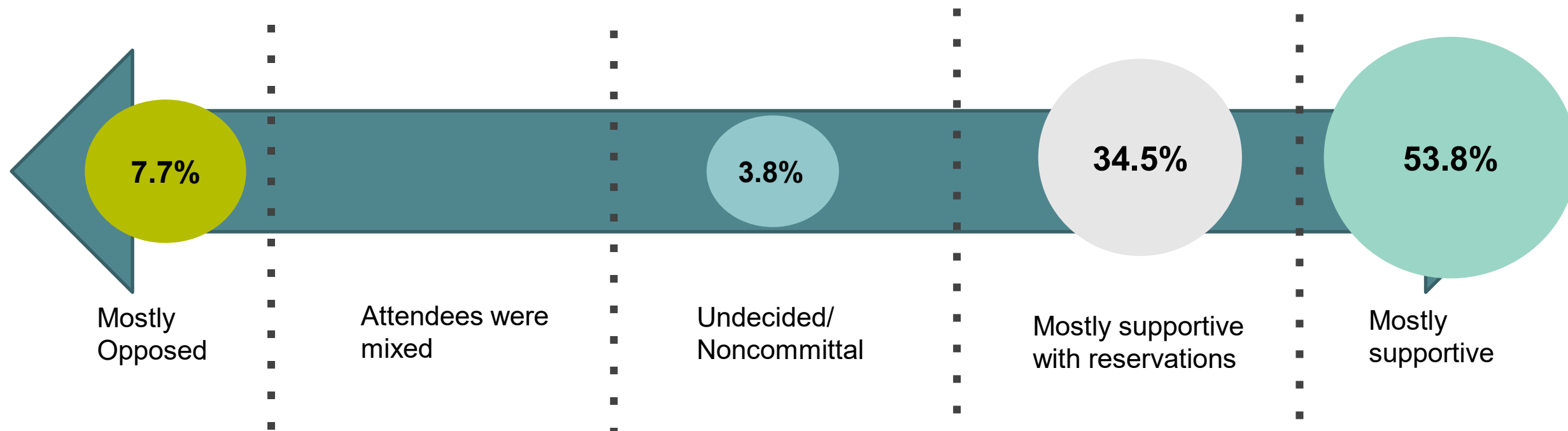
- East Feliciana
 - Rescheduled due to weather
- Amite River Basin Commission for a full commissioners meeting
 - Rescheduled due to flood event on May 17/18
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Additional NGOs
- May not result in anything that changes in the recommendation in June



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

Support for the work

- This is based on our interpretation of discussions, metrics were assigned afterwards



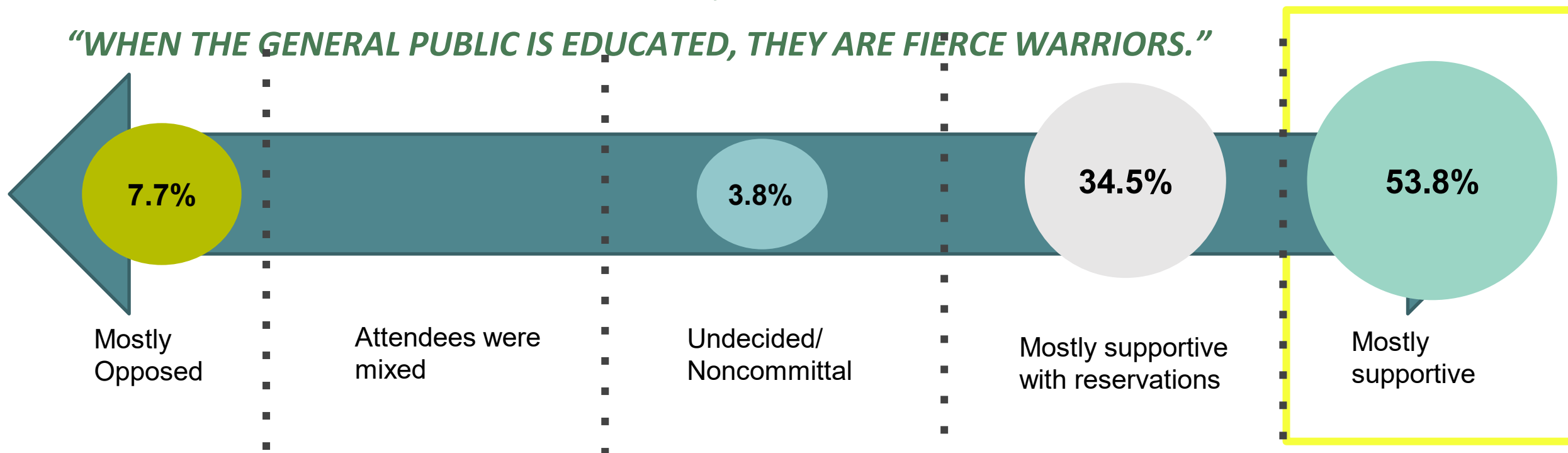
Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

Main points of feedback along the spectrum

- We need a regional forum for collaboration, technical assistance, capacity building, to incentivize consistency for standards, etc.

“THESE RIVERS HAVE BEEN HERE FOREVER; WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE IT WORK BETTER.”

“WHEN THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS EDUCATED, THEY ARE FIERCE WARRIORS.”

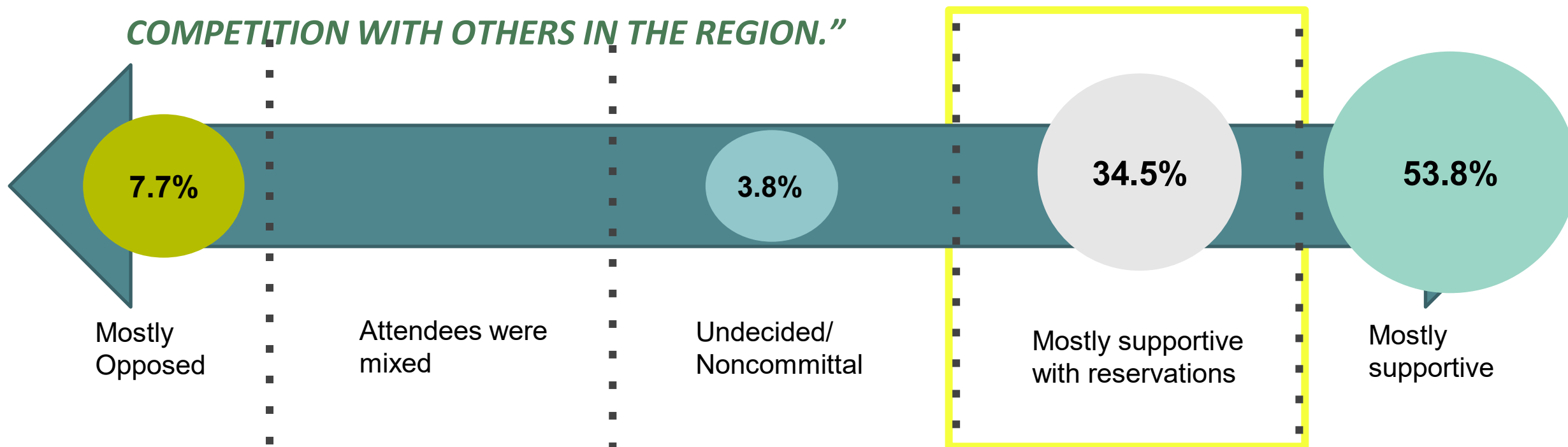


Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

Main points of feedback along the spectrum

- The work is necessary, we need to collaborate more, technical assistance and capacity building is key, etc.

“I’M IN SUPPORT OF THE REGIONAL CONCEPT AND WE ALSO DON’T WANT TO BE IN COMPETITION WITH OTHERS IN THE REGION.”

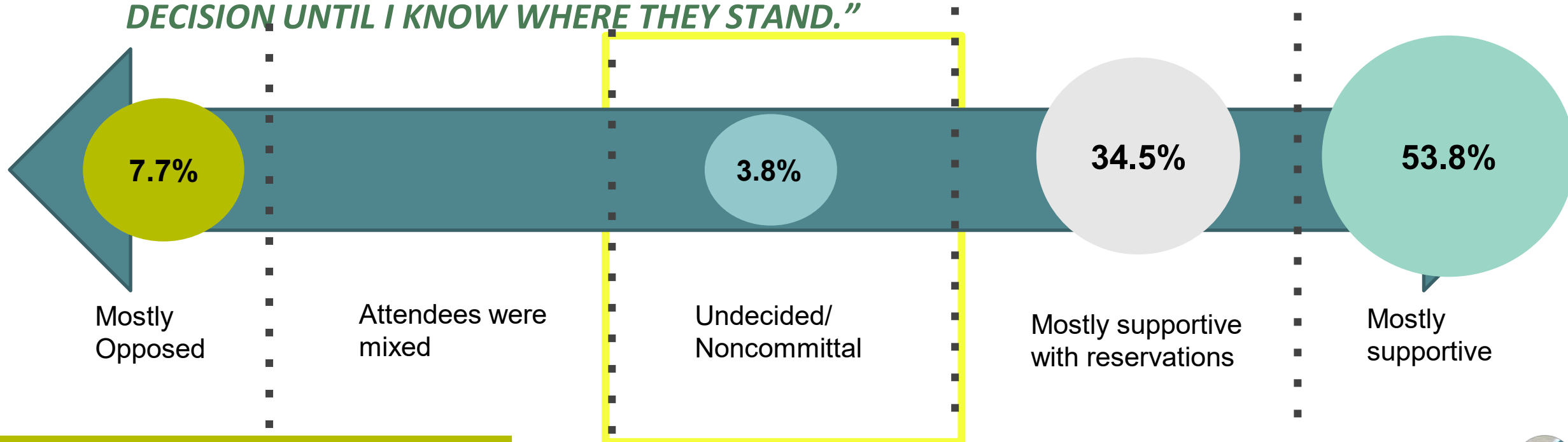


Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

Main points of feedback along the spectrum

- The work needs to be done, unsure how to align if we don't know what the Parish thinks, etc.

“THE PARISH THAT WE ARE IN DIDN'T VOTE AND I'M UNCOMFORTABLE MAKING A DECISION UNTIL I KNOW WHERE THEY STAND.”

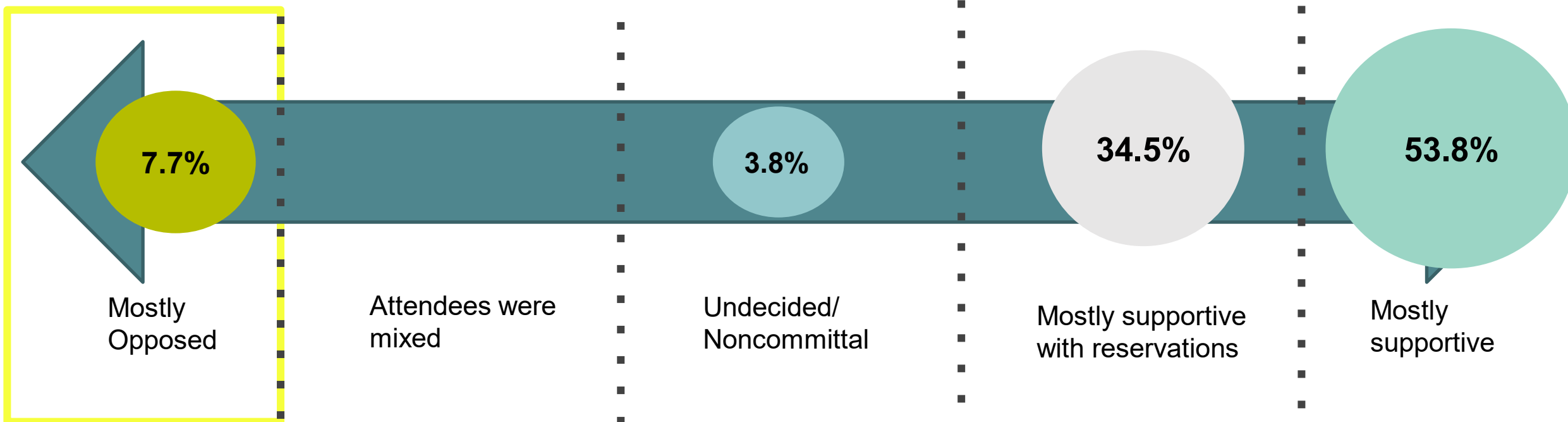


Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

Main points of feedback along the spectrum

- This effort is not necessary, region should be split, concerns with having “another layer of bureaucracy,” concerns about overlapping authorities with existing institutions,

“WE DON’T NEED ANOTHER LAYER OF BUREAUCRACY.”



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

What we learned – Most mentioned feedback

Regional collaborative forum to share information and best practices	76.92%
Capacity building and support (including for project design) to level the playing field and incorporate best practices to be able to submit applications	73.08%
Support for better, consistent, and more clear flood resilient standards for subdivision and drainage regulations	69.23%
repository of technical data and information, including models at the state-level	65.38%
Leverage existing data and resources across the region and state	61.54%
Guidance on how to use model data and information	61.54%
Local government capacity building and training on flooding, resilience, climate	61.54%



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

What we learned – Most mentioned feedback

Support for interpretation of data	57.69%
Localized outreach and engagement efforts on resilience, flooding, climate change, relationship/impacts to other sectors	53.85%
Minimum standard requirements to be able to access funds	53.85%
Support for more holistic planning processes	53.85%
Upstream/downstream coordination	50.00%



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

What we learned – Most mentioned feedback

Translation of models into action for projects, policy, and programs	42.31%
Education for legislators	42.31%
Consistent funding mechanisms	42.31%
Provide consistency in decision-making and processes	38.46%
Regional master Plan process with vision that is updated every 5-6 years with policy, programs, and projects	34.62%
Flood risk communication to general public	34.62%
Consistency between state agencies	34.62%
Support for model ordinances	30.77%



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

What we learned – Most mentioned feedback

Another layer of bureaucracy	30.77%
Equitable representation for rural parishes	26.92%
Clearly communicate updates to policy and regulations to elected officials and the general public	26.92%
Support for paying local match	23.08%
Support for earning CRS points	23.08%
Need to be sure that we understand functionally how multiple bodies with overlapping roles work together	23.08%
Another layer of bureaucracy	30.77%
Equitable representation for rural parishes	26.92%



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

What we learned – Feedback mentioned sometimes

Another layer of bureaucracy	30.77%
Equitable representation for rural parishes	26.92%
Clearly communicate updates to policy and regulations to elected officials and the general public	26.92%
Support for paying local match	23.08%
Support for earning CRS points	23.08%
Need to be sure that we understand functionally how multiple bodies with overlapping roles work together	23.08%
Another layer of bureaucracy	30.77%
Equitable representation for rural parishes	26.92%



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

What we learned – Feedback mentioned sometimes

Explicit incorporation of citizens into planning and decision-making processes	19.23%
Assistance navigating existing permitting processes	19.23%
Campaigns to support necessary minimum standards	19.23%
Managing/supporting/funding issues of maintenance	15.38%
Partnership opportunities for regional gauge network	15.38%
Have ways to get projects approved faster	15.38%
Daylighting Parish efforts and capacity challenges to public	15.38%
Fund project studies	11.54%



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

What we learned – Feedback mentioned sometimes

Review for standards compliance on drainage studies	11.54%
Coordination with academic institutions	11.54%
Integration of water quality along with flood mitigation	11.54%
local jurisdictions should have autonomy over this	11.54%
Provide specific information on the economic impacts of flooding	11.54%
Coordination with federal agencies	11.54%



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

What we learned – Least mentioned feedback

Amite River Basin should receive the majority of funds for 2016 flood events	7.69%
Expenditure of funds in most-impacted region	7.69%
No approval of projects through Region 7	7.69%
Ensure risk reduction projects do not decrease water quality	7.69%
Ranking of projects (established process)	7.69%
Incorporate flood risk information into school curriculum	7.69%



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

What we learned – Least mentioned feedback

Should not exist	3.85%
Regional permitting to streamline process	3.85%
All funds should be given to DOTD and CPRA because they're project-oriented	3.85%
Create cost-benefit analysis ratio for the region	3.85%
ARBC already reviews for adverse impacts of projects (does not approve), wants to continue doing so	3.85%
Provide a clear understanding of costs of standards	3.85%



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

Regional boundaries - previous discussions

- October 13, 2020 RSC poll
- Comments at the time
 - Unless there's a significant reason to change them, don't
 - ARBC maintained



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

Regional boundaries - comments during outreach process

- 23% = six conversations, two of which were with the same Parish, one of which was with a municipality within that Parish (3 out of 6 conversations were from within the same Parish)
- **Idea we heard:** Maintain region with additional ways to have feedback at the sub-regional level (sub-goals, sub-committees, etc.) when decisions need to be considered at a different scale

Region should split into 7A/7B (23.08%)

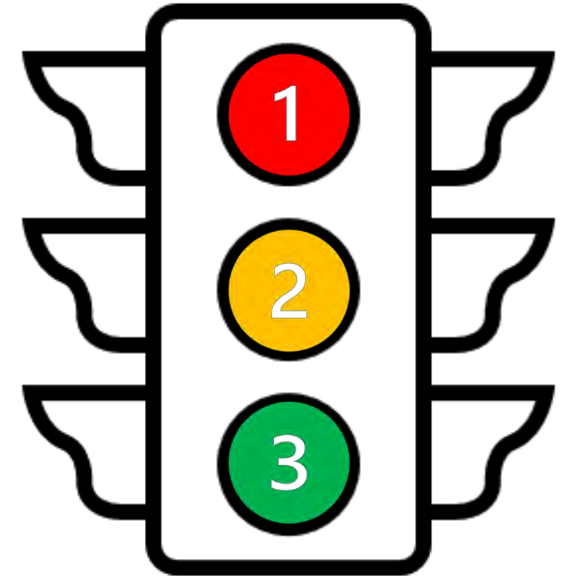
- Stated reasons why:
 - Competition with St. Tammany (23.08%)
 - Resourcing for organization (19.23%)
 - Maintain organizational identity and jurisdictional boundary (3.85%)



Consensus exercise

Boundaries

- Based on what we're hearing, it sounds like the RSC wants the regional boundaries to remain the same ***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"**



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

What else from the feedback overview document?

What else?



Feedback – Prov. Gov. Rec.

Moving forward

1. **Need to vote on a final document during our June meeting**
2. **Recommend that we incorporate all items majority in favor**
3. **Recommend that items that we are unsure about be revisited**
4. **Recommend that items that were not favored are not incorporated**





4. Bylaws update and open position



Extending RSC timeline

Update bylaws

Current bylaws text:

This Committee will dissolve Spring/Summer 2021, unless extended by OCD or the RSC, upon determination of an appropriate long-term watershed coalition framework. Regional activities are intended to continue under this longer-term coalition framework and will build upon the work, input, and recommendations of this group. For

Proposed update: This Committee will dissolve upon the setup of an appropriate long-term watershed coalition framework.

Notes:

- This change is anticipated to take place Winter 2021/22, removing a timeframe offers flexibility
- Need appropriate documents (updated bylaws) in place
- Can operate (not to full extent) prior to legislation



Member position

Welcome!

Thinking behind our selection...

- **Following the bylaws - recommendation by CRPC, approved by OCD based on the guidelines given and fill gaps in occupational and demographic diversity based on the guidelines given**
- **Someone who has already been involved and regularly attending who has wisdom, experience, is willing to contribute, and represents voices who are not yet at the table**



Member position

Welcome!

Welcome, Ivy Mathieu! A little bit about Ivy...

- **Currently, Vice Chair on the St. John Coastal Advisory Committee.**
- **Currently, Secretary for Keep St. John Beautiful.**
- **Board of Louisiana Recycling Coalition (formerly the Secretary).**
- **Louisiana Federal Credit Union Supervisory Committee (responsible for auditing and overseeing operating procedures).**
- **St. John Healthy Community Committee**
- **Partnered with Amanda Moore of National Wildlife Federation to shape/influence the policies of the Coastal Master Plan to be "People Centric"---on going dialogue.**
- **Former volunteer efforts: Child Advocate (CASA); Lead the Coast inaugural committee.**
- **LEAD the Coast graduate, former advisory group member**
- **Current member of Region 7 Transition Team**

****She is currently picking up trash on Elmer's Island through an event with BTNEP, another organization that she is regularly plugged in with****





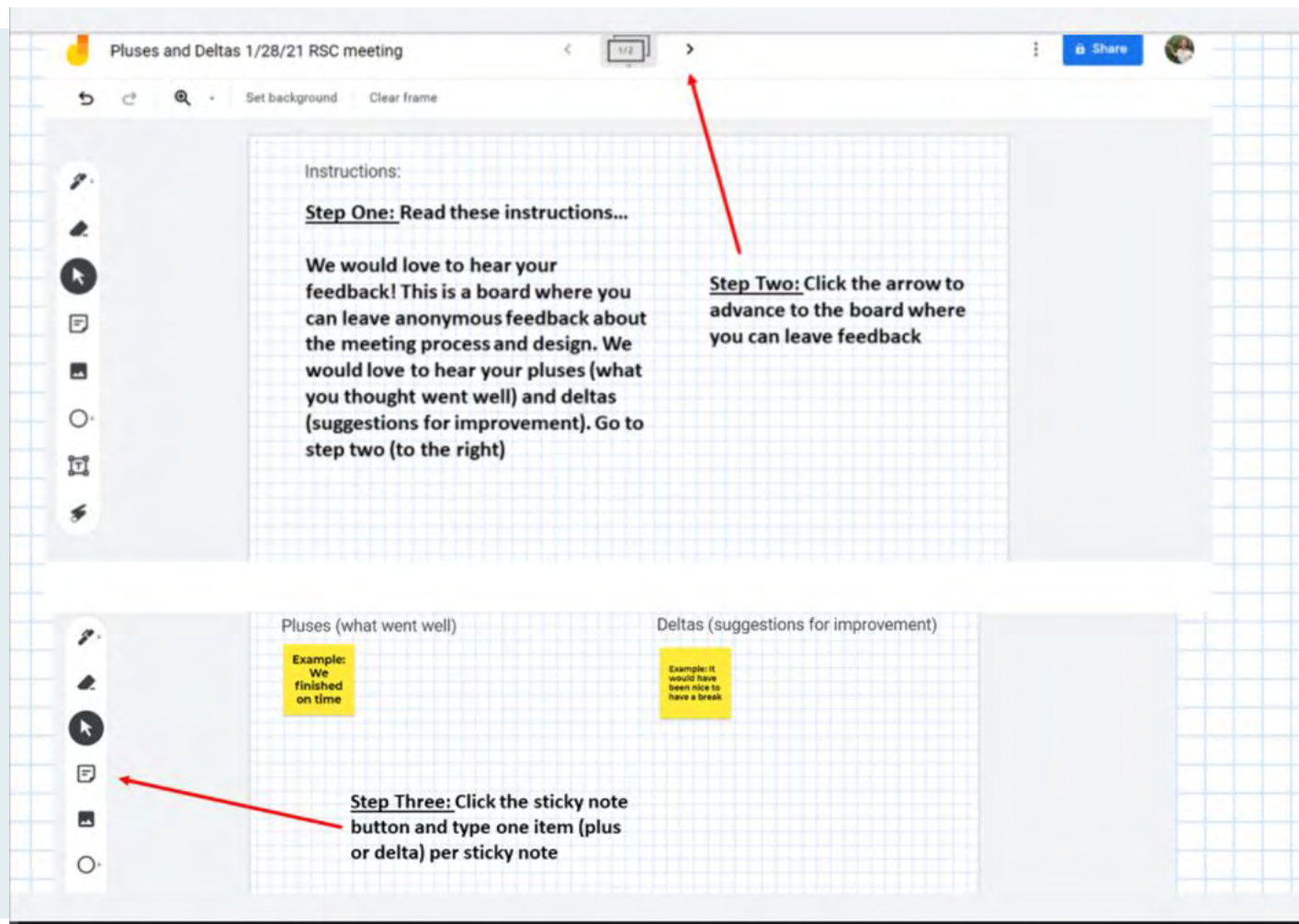
5. Public comment



Feedback from previous meeting

Feedback from last meeting's pluses and deltas board.

None



The screenshot shows a Miro board titled "Pluses and Deltas 1/28/21 RSC meeting". The board is divided into three main sections:

- Instructions:** A large text box containing the following text:

Step One: Read these instructions...

We would love to hear your feedback! This is a board where you can leave anonymous feedback about the meeting process and design. We would love to hear your pluses (what you thought went well) and deltas (suggestions for improvement). Go to step two (to the right)

Step Two: Click the arrow to advance to the board where you can leave feedback
- Pluses (what went well):** A section with a yellow sticky note example that says "Example: We finished on time".
- Deltas (suggestions for improvement):** A section with a yellow sticky note example that says "Example: It would have been nice to have a break".

Red arrows point to the right arrow in the top navigation bar and the sticky note icon in the left toolbar. A third instruction at the bottom reads: "Step Three: Click the sticky note button and type one item (plus or delta) per sticky note".



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

- Council meeting Thursday (May 27) at 9:00 am
- Happy one year!
- Adoption of April 22 meeting minutes
- Upcoming meetings:
 - June 29 from 1 to 3:30pm
 - Need to schedule beyond June
- 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

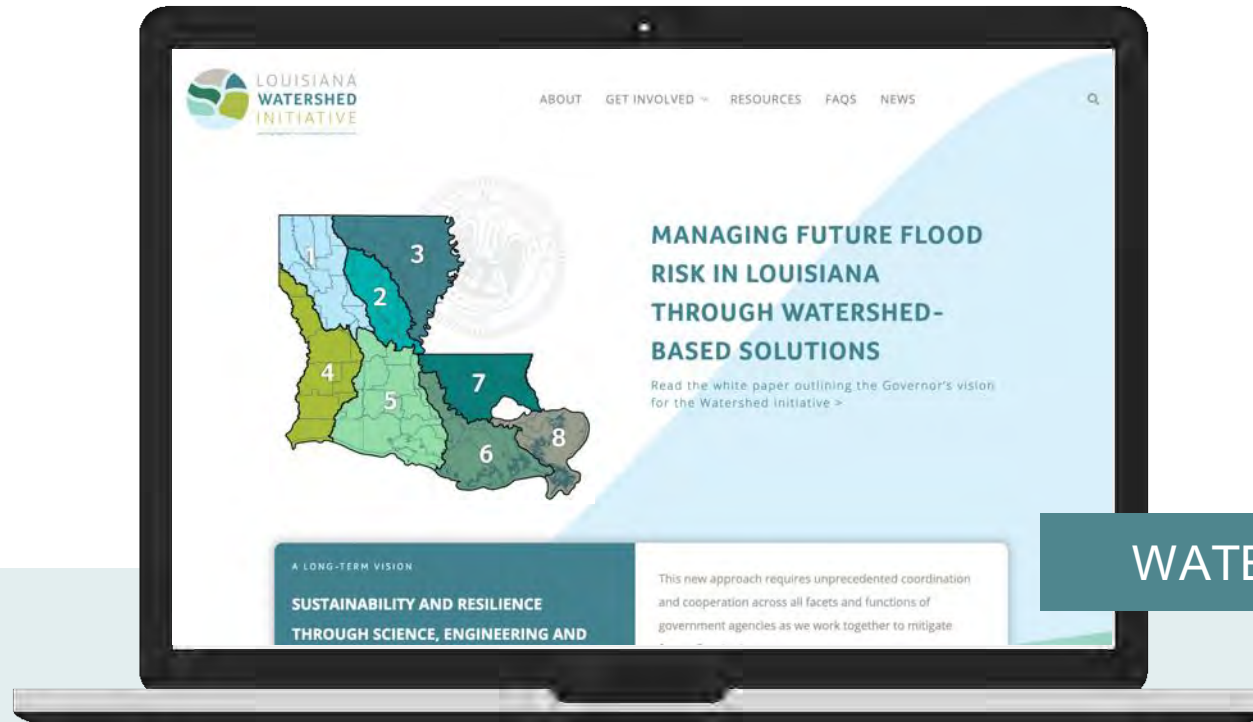


 @LAWATERSHEDINITIATIVE

 @LAWATERSHED

 WATERSHED@LA.GOV

THANK YOU



WATERSHED.LA.GOV

Idea Marina



April 22 meeting: Define Coastal areas by various factors (Deitmar question)

May 25: roadshow and program build out



REGION 7

JUNE 29 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

THANK YOU

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

THANK YOU AND ICEBREAKER

Thank you for being with us today.

Icebreaker: What’s your favorite go-to rain gear?

UPDATES

Funding Opportunities, Capacity Building

- Georgetown Climate Center Affordable Housing & Flood Risk
 - Second work group meeting
 - Hybrid deliverable of visioning/strategy document
 - Outline and strategy of objectives specific to nature-based solution, and affordable housing (urban to rural spectrum) that is resilient
- Resilience Roadmap work with EPA



- Introductory meeting with advisory group meeting this summer
- Putting together a research group to support the work for equitable flood risk protection and reduction
- Environmental Finance Centers
 - Region-wide workshop, working on a survey to inform content
- NAS Gulf Research Program
 - Evaluating linkages between open space preservation, and vacant/abandoned property in Louisiana Watershed Region 7; synergies and opportunities for coordinating flood protection strategies
- NOAA RESTORE & RESTORE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
 - Grants pending

Transition Team

- Tackling relevant documents for transitioning one at a time for what will be included in the governance structure
 - Starting with bylaws
 - Will come to RSC with a request for feedback in the near future
 - RSC members, Renee Pastorek, Bridget Bailey, and Ivy Matthieu have volunteered to participate on the transition team to assist with review and guidance

Conferences and other updates

- Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning
 - Presenting Applying Network Analysis and Plan Evaluation (NAPE) Methodologies for Regional Institution Building within the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, Dr. Thomas Douthat
- At What Point Managed Retreat
 - Submitted an abstract that was not selected
- A. Ivan Johnson Young Professional Award – American Water Resources Association
 - Rachelle Sanderson will receive this award at the American Water Resources Association conference in November
- Lindsey Lamana's Thesis Defense
 - July 20 – Rachelle will send a link

UPDATES

- Manny Patole: IWRA is doing a water diplomacy master class.

A QUICK RECAP

2020

- August – Vision, values, and goals
- September – Identifying root causes
- October – Region boundaries
- November – Funding discussion
- December – Governance models



2021

- January – Discussion on governance recommendation and voted to adopt a governance recommendation
- February – Round 1 project selection process
- March – Discussion on long term funding, Round 1 project selection process, and leverage state’s process
- April – Vote on Round 1 project selection process
- May – Governance recommendation adjustments

FEEDBACK ON PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION & VOTE

Overview

- How was feedback was incorporated
- Governance recommendation walk through
 - Substantive language change compared to wordsmithing
- Vote on the provisional governance recommendation
 - Only RSC members will vote yay/nay
 - Abstaining is not an option today

How Feedback was incorporated

- Reviewed feedback from previous discussions and RSC responses on provisional governance document in tandem with the Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework. Feedback was incorporating by adopting consistent language in the document. Feedback specific to program buildout and items that were not mentioned often or not in alignment with CDBG-MIT Action Plan were not incorporated.
 - Rene Pastorek: Is the feedback from the forms, outreach or meetings with elected officials RSC?
 - Rachele Sanderson: Both, we looked at all feedback that was received.

Changes in Language

- Region 7 Watershed Body = Watershed Committee
 - There is no legal definition for Council vs Committee vs Commission vs Coalition etc.
 - Name is subject to change
- Items removed:
 - Removal of glossary because of vague language
 - Removal of recommendation date and vote table
 - Replacement of regional goals for reference of Guiding Principles Framework for simplicity
- Activities Section

Planning and Development Guidance

What changed: Consolidated technical assistance and coordination aspects into a singular bullet point

What has not changed: minimum development standards recommended from the State



Projects

What changed: Removed “review”

What has not changed: focus on technical assistance

COMMENTS

(Comments are not verbatim)

- Dietmar Rietschier: I sent an email, we want representatives for each parish for projects, programs for that particular watershed.
- Fred Raiford: My concern within parishes, we have lots of drainage district boards, are we not leaving out folks who are responsible for the parish itself? Some folks don't have drainage districts. They see the problems everyday, how do we get their input when we make a decision on watershed issues? We have several watersheds in our parish, and we can do many projects that have to go through council and process. Are we moving to a point where we exclude boards, or those who are appointed?
- Rachelle Sanderson: We are an inclusive group, and we are trying to involve as many folks as possible. If there are folks you want us to get in touch with, please share the contact so we can get a conversation and introductions started
- Fred Raiford: We deal with Iberville, Ascension, and Livingston, and before submitting projects, we need to go through them to make sure there are no adverse impacts.
- Dietmar Rietschier: Look at the first page (of the provisional governance recommendation), we cannot forget about drainage districts in water matters. We need to include drainage districts, levee boards, basin commissions, and other water management agencies. They cannot be ignored, I sense potential conflict in future, we need to figure out how to include them.
- Rachelle Sanderson: We are discussing membership structure, which will be determined by each region's bylaws, and it is unsure what the structure will be in the future. We have not been ignoring folks who are interested in this work and we try to get those people in support and capacity build. One of the roles of the RSC is to provide those connections and it is easier for them (interested parties) to get connected to us (by RSC recommendation) compared to an outsider with no related contacts.
- Ross Liner: By incorporating the bylaws, it will make up the membership structure, it is up to RSC to provide support and suggestions on the bylaws. That is how the bylaws will be created.
- Bridget: I agree with Ross because I see the bylaws as the nuts and bolts of how things will be structured. Forming a regional committee will give more guidance of how membership recommendation is more in line with the subcommittee. Whatever way we structure – we want to develop oversight on the mission of the group. It does not matter what name, ultimately the group will be tasked with watershed management plans and provides vision on the expectations of how things will be managed. Make sure we are mindful that we are inclusive because in our region, we have numerous HUC 8 watersheds that are affected by multiple watersheds. We must identify commitments.
- Fred Raiford: While I don't have drainage districts, we have many volunteers involved in the steps we take about our drainage, they are mindful of downstream because what they do may affect others. We want to make sure that we are listening to the concerns of those appointed and their committees in drainage districts,



and that they don't feel left out. Look at what happened in Ascension Parish last night. Don't leave out people who should be involved.

- Rachelle Sanderson: We are looking forward to providing what people need.
- Dietmar Rietschier: I want to clarify when I mean watershed. Fred may mean smaller watersheds. When I say watershed, I refer to context of a HUC 8, we have 7 in our watershed. I just want to clarify because it may be confusing.

Data and Modeling

What changed: Inclusion of technical data and information repository and technical assistance

What has not changed: Focus on having state-level support (housing, repository, etc.) for data and modeling

COMMENTS

(Comments are not verbatim)

- Dietmar Rietschier: I think Region 7 has 7 projects, and Amite River Basin is very large. When we say we provide data for project, I would like to find out... given 300 acres this is a big problem because of flooding, if the model, if you want to create regional model to document the changes. They should do H&H models for subdivisions. Nobody has answered me when they are going to be used? Putting it on paper is one thing, but what will the model be able to tell us?
- Rachelle Sanderson: There are different boundaries. Our consultant is Dewberry, we don't know but we will ask them that question because we would like to have access to that technical data/models.
- Fred Raiford: I understand the modeling issue, my concern is improvement that any parish does must be included in that model. Is that what the intent is for all development everywhere?
- Rachelle Sanderson: That is the question we ask the State. We need to get an update from the Dewberry group.
- Evelyn Campo: That relates to model storing update. I agree that is a question that goes to State, but it is not relevant to provisional governance conversation today, but we can reach out for an update from the modeling team.
- Ross Liner: I would like an update; it is probably about time.
- Rachelle Sanderson: We will put in a request modeling update to show impact and how to use that model

Outreach and Engagement

What changed: Consolidation of outreach, education, and capacity building into one bullet point

What has not changed: support for watershed-related outreach, education, capacity building to the benefit of those within the region

COMMENTS

(Comments are not verbatim)

- Dietmar Rietschier: How do you educate legislators? Is it going to be by providing information? Elected officials, it may be more difficult thing to do.



- Ivy Matthieu: To respond to Dietmar, there is no specific format. Should we use the word intentional or deliberate in localized outreach? Something that requires some action.
- Ross Liner: Are you saying “provide opportunities” does not sound strong enough? What is a better word?
- Ivy Matthieu: Yes, try intentional or deliberate, something with action.
- Rachelle Sanderson: “Prove intentional opportunities” Does this insert work?
- Mike Enlow: Could you say something to intently implement best management practices?
- Bridget Bailey: Outreach and engagement – it is really about capacity building, educating what watershed management is, long term capacity building for the region, buy in for those who need to be at the table. When I read this, I am thinking public entities are governing bodies and their citizens. I think this was supposed to be intended for local council members who are legislators at large, not the state. At a local level and education, not the state level.
- Rene Pastorek: Bridget I agree, however I think the stronger language would be “Conduct outreach for watershed related capacity building”. Plan the models, you can leave out a lot of people if made too specific. So, use “conduct” Leave out stronger requirements
- Ivy Matthieu: Thank you, that is the action-oriented word because we know it will be the last thing on anyone’s list.
- Rachelle Sanderson: Does this language work? “Conduct intentional watershed related outreach and education”

Change in language was accepted at large.

Roadmap Section

What changed: Addition of membership being established in each region’s bylaws

What has not changed: Everything else is consistent

Authorities Section

What changed: Consolidation of capacity building, technical assistance items into one bullet point; removed “review”; removed “oversee

What has not changed: Same spirit within the authorities as before... authority to provide assistance, to cooperate, to manage regional planning processes; to receive funds

COMMENTS

(Comments are not verbatim)

- Dietmar Rietschier: The funding, does that mean major projects in the watershed? When it says governmental agencies, it does not specify how funds will be distributed.
- Rachelle Sanderson – This does not give authority to CRPC to distribute funds
- Ross Liner: For example, if you have a project by whoever, on behalf of ARBC, it may be coming from this committee, and therefore we should have rules set to receive the funds on behalf of you and can be redistributed back to you.



- Dietmar Rietschier: We may be causing a problem here, the committee represents a large area and I see potential conflicts because of eastern and western, if this was a smaller area then it is ok. I see it differently
- Steve Kistler: The 3rd bullet point is vague, is this document (provisional governance recommendation) supposed to define it better or is it defined more thoroughly in the bylaws?
- Bridget Bailey: It will be more specific in the bylaws. It will have details that flesh this out. We would be tasked with coming up with a plan. We are saying we want to have the ability to manage the plan, asking the council to bless us with this ability to be written in the bylaws to be created. This governance recommendation is more general.
- Steve Kistler: The authority to receive and distribute – how can this be defined better; would it be in the bylaws? We need a mechanism to receive and distribute.
- Ross Liner: We can say funds received, dictates, we are trying to be consistent (in language).
- Bridget Bailey: Depending on funding source, there are different rules and bylaws that will state that we will be in accordance with funds received. We will be consistent with what the rules given.
- Fred Raiford: If EBRP received a grant from the CORE etc., and was approved and requires some local funding, and the city wanted to go to this committee for additional funds, how do we go about this process? Would I still be required to go through watershed board or not if I wanted to ask for funding from watershed board, and project was approved.
- Rachele Sanderson: That specific level of detail is not meant to be in this (provisional governance) document. We don't know what future mechanisms are going to be.
- Bridget Bailey: Something this detailed will be in the bylaws.
- Dietmar Rietschier: We are paying too much attention to details, what does this mean? We need to highlight warning that this (governance document) is not final, and subject to change until the plan is finalized. It makes me nervous. Why are we so detailed if it is not final?
- Fred Raiford: My concern is there is a lot that needs to be dictated, in guidance with, based on comments, before we do approve where we are. There are many variables, I am not too sure we are putting the cart before the horse.
- Major Coleman: When I got involved initially, no matter the source of funding, we work as a region. Not saying this committee would approve the project, but it would go through this committee to identify adverse impacts, even if you don't ask this committee for funding because we want to regionalize the activity. It is not about the money; it is about the effect of us on a region.
- Rene Pastorek – I agree with Major, having a regional plan that looks at HUC models to develop land use plans etc. that should be the goal. Like the coastal master plan. Having a regional plan will give a stronger case to accomplish goals and provides a more holistic approach.
- Steve Kistler – I want to speak on the governance vs bylaws, I am looking at governance models defining what we can and cannot do, the bylaws are the rules/framework.
- Kim Marousek – We are setting up a foundation for the framework. We don't know what kind of funding we are getting and the attachments. We are just setting up the vessel to move through the programmatic problems but its general and we are casting a fairly wide net and attack problems as they arise. Should we be putting in a disclaimer on the provisional governance? Is there anything from the conversation or revising language that need to be added to incorporate the comments?



- Ryan Donadieu: It is still new. I do believe as we progress, things will change. As of now, there are so many uncertainties.

ADOPTION OF GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION CHANGES

Ryan Donadieu motioned

Fred Raiford seconded

No objections, motion passed

AFFILIATION	VOTE	AFFILIATION	VOTE
Ascension Parish	Yay	St. Tammany Parish	Yay
East Baton Rouge Parish	Yay	Tangipahoa Parish	Yay
East Feliciana Parish	Absent	Washington Parish	Yay
Iberville Parish	Yay	West Feliciana Parish	Yay
Livingston Parish	Yay	Amite River Basin Commission	Yay
St. Charles Parish	Yay	Regional rep. – Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge	Yay
St. Helena Parish	Yay	Regional rep. – Pontchartrain Conservancy or Tangipahoa Parish Council	Yay
St. James Parish	Yay	Regional rep. – St. John Coastal Advisory Committee, LA Recycling Coalition, Keep St. John Beautiful etc.	Yay
St. John the Baptist Parish	Yay		

NEXT STEPS

- Council sought out regional input and this recommendation will be presented to the Watershed Council
 - It will also be presented with a state-wide alignment recommendation
 - This information will be sent to the Governor’s Office as a recommendation as well to be introduced to legislation during the 2022 session beginning March 14, 2022
 - We will keep everyone updated as we have more information provided from our partners at the State
- Region 7 Transition Team will continue working on documents to support the implementation of the recommendation
- Regional staff and volunteers, in coordination with State staff, will begin expanding programs in support of items in the governance recommendation

Evelyn Campo (OCD): The next steps are collecting recommendations from all regions which is where we are at now. Collectively, all those recommendations create the framework for enablement, we will still need to coordinate so that the state.

Rachelle Sanderson: The transition team will continue to work on documents (the details) and will be brought up to the RSC.



REGIONAL PROJECT UPDATE

RECAP

Projects selected

- Over \$26 million awarded to Region 7
 - Bayou Duplantier Floodplain Acquisition
 - Ward Creek Floodplain Acquisition
 - Cypress Bayou Green Infrastructure
 - Dellwood Drainage Pump Station Hardening
 - East Slidell Ring Levee
 - Lee Street Drainage Pump Station Hardening
- Over 40% of Round 1 funds to support projects by applicants in Region 7
- Will be sharing login information with RSC members so that everyone can see the applications
- Round 1 has 2 steps
 - Selection by the state
 - Selection by the region
- Project Selection Stats
 - 14% of the project costs would have been able to be funded through the \$100M Round 1 Program
 - Capacity building is needed across the state – many applications are considered ineligible due to lack of data, technical information, etc.
- Regional Project Selection Update – Focus of July 22 meeting
 - RSC adopted State's process. State's process has changed
 - Prior to June 8
 - \$5M threshold
 - Regions would receive projects that were deemed eligible that were under \$5M
 - After June 8
 - \$6M threshold
 - Regions received all projects that were deemed eligible
 - Discussion with applicants above \$6M to see if matching funds have been obtained since the application was submitted
- Next Steps Round 1 - Discussions with applicants
 - Applicants with above a \$6M ask are being contacted to see if they have found different funding sources which changes how much is needed since applying.
 - Review of additional funding sources that will make projects be below \$6M if they are available by OCD for HUD requirements
 - This will have to be approved
 - Waiting on further instructions by OCD



Evelyn Campo: The value of having RSC is knowing we have lots of technical capacity needs, and many areas do not have equal capacity. We have an intense need for funding because of repeated funding.

- Moving Forward
 - Some applicants demonstrated need but will require support from the state to design and construct projects
 - This is not a competitive program
 - State and local applicants are partners
 - There will be more opportunities to apply for Rounds 2 and 3

Rachelle Sanderson: For the ineligible projects, were those still ranked and can we see the score and rank?

Evelyn Campo: I am unsure but I will look into it.

Rene Pastorek: Seeing other parish's projects and what was deemed ineligible would be helpful for future application projects.

Nicolette Jones: Some ineligible projects were not scored because they were disqualified. We don't have scoring information for them but we have what the project was and why it was ineligible.

Evelyn Campo: Even projects that were ineligible, it can help this group guide this group in the future. Looking at those applications, look at concepts that this region still wants to pursue and there will be additional funding and projects.

Rene Pastorek: (The website offers) Just a list of projects and why they were deemed ineligible, it was not scored.

John Clark: If the project is over \$6M, is it possible to do phases of the project? would you have to do a benefit cost analysis? If you do phase approach, do you have to show that the entire project has a secure source of funding?

Evelyn Campo: We would have to screen for, HUD does not allow a phase of a project because it is a federal rule. We have to caution that HUD doesn't allow partial funding of a project or fund part of a project. The flexibility we have is budget flexibility. If you find new sources of funding that can fill funding gap, then it will be a budget change.

PUBLIC COMMENT + REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

Request for feedback on our board:

https://jamboard.google.com/d/1RZKSoL42wXUgDP2tYcYNbZ_hXXdocS5_fcOD_2TzFUE/edit?usp=sharing

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

MEETING CLOSEOUT

Upcoming meeting:

July 22 from 1:00-3:30pm – does anyone want to host this?



ADOPTION OF MAY 25 MEETING MINUTES

Major Coleman motioned
Ronny Carter seconded
No objections, motion passes

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Bridget Bailey motioned
Steve Kistler seconded
No objections, motion passes

RESOURCES SHARED DURING THE MEETING

N/A

MEETING CHAT

01:04:59 Ryan Donadieu: Ryan Donadieu

01:05:47 Nicolette Jones: Link to meeting materials: <https://crpla.org/watershed-get-involved-upcoming-events/2021/6/29/region-7-june-29-2021-regional-steering-committee>

01:07:11 Marvin McGraw: Marvin McGraw, OCD

01:09:46 Honora Buras: There is a lot of feedback - probably picking up the PA in the microphone.

01:12:08 Rachele Sanderson: Hang in there y'all

01:12:39 Tom Stephens: Tom Stephens is present.

01:12:59 Rachele Sanderson: Calling in via my cell phone

01:15:20 Manny Patole: Mute the other mike... YES, now the phone is working

01:15:45 Manny Patole: But the ones in the room cannot.

01:15:52 Manny Patole: I can help test if needed

01:18:57 Manny Patole: Welcome to the issue every teacher who has used the hybrid model over the last 18 months :-)

01:21:51 Nicolette Jones: Yes, bless them

01:22:20 Manny Patole: Great job troubleshooting Nicolette and Rachele :-)

01:24:21 Jackie Baumann: umbrella

01:24:44 John Clark: umbrella

01:24:48 Manny Patole: Nothing... all are equally useless haha... but I would choose boots

01:24:50 Ivy Mathieu: Umbrella

01:24:51 Nicolette Jones: boots

01:24:55 Rene Pastorek: umbrella

01:29:08 Manny Patole: Thanks for the introductions and being included. (Manny Patole, Co-City Baton Rouge Project manager and Fellow)



01:32:04Manny Patole (he | his, Co-City Baton Rouge): Congrats to Rachele on the AWRA award :-)

01:32:36Nicolette Jones: Congrats Rachele!

01:33:00Nicolette Jones: Congrats Lindsey as well on completing thesis!

01:34:01Manny Patole (he | his, Co-City Baton Rouge): IWRA is doing a water diplomacy master class

01:34:55Manny Patole (he | his, Co-City Baton Rouge): FYI - IWRA Master Class:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0A9QNxfVTC6BcIPXpquYvA

01:35:49Manny Patole (he | his, Co-City Baton Rouge): Class program -
https://mcusercontent.com/4aa69bf16ae24a85c3dd8a26a/files/5984f22e-9c5a-9c50-b822-96b0b4d82856/IWRA2021MasterClasses_WaterCooperation_Diplomacy_IndicativeProgramme.pdf

01:36:11Manny Patole (he | his, Co-City Baton Rouge): This series of ten weekly classes (see indicative programme here), will be held for two and half hours each, divided into:

01:36:20Manny Patole (he | his, Co-City Baton Rouge): Public lectures: A 90-minute session, freely accessible and open to all; followed by,

01:36:28Manny Patole (he | his, Co-City Baton Rouge): Skill-building workshops: Each session will run for 60 minutes, only for IWRA Gold and Silver members, as well as UPWCD students and members. Registration will be on a first come first serve basis, as limited places are available.


01:36:37Manny Patole (he | his, Co-City Baton Rouge): Confirmed dates and times:
Every Thursday of July, starting on July 1st until July 29th
Every Thursday of September, starting on September 2nd until September 30th except for Thursday, September 16th, which is a religious holiday
First Thursday of October, this is on October 7th

02:59:15Danielle Honor: Yay

03:02:02Nicolette Jones: Thanks to everyone for your comments and feedback

03:28:05Rachele Sanderson:
<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1Yvby4CWv30AyngaO9StkLrZXb8JbKUbGXUxCUHkaj6U/edit?usp=sharing>

03:29:31John Clark: I apologize, but I have to leave meeting. Thanks all.



LWI Region 7 Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting

June 29, 2021

RACHELLE SANDERSON, CRPC

KIM MAROUSEK, CRPC

EVELYN CAMPO, OCD

NICOLETTE JONES, OCD

VICTORIA NGUYEN, CRPC AND LSU



LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

working together for sustainability and resilience



AGENDA

1. Introductions and meeting logistics
2. Past meetings recap, reminders, updates
3. Feedback on provisional governance recommendation and vote
4. Regional project update
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



Shared agreements

These are “ways of engagement” for how we will be interacting with one another. If these agreements are not being followed, we will revisit them. 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

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 Danielle Honor (standing in for Stephanie today)	St. Charles Parish
Major Coleman and/or Jeremy Williams	St. Helena Parish
Ryan Donadieu and/or Ryan Larousse	St. James Parish
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
Ronny Carter and/or Kim Coates	Pontchartrain Conservancy and Tangipahoa Parish Council
Ivy Mathieu	St. John Coastal Advisory Committee, LA Recycling Coalition, Keep St. John Beautiful, etc.



Thank you & a quick icebreaker

- For being with us today
- What's your favorite go-to rain gear?



RAINCOAT
SOURCE: ETSY



UMBRELLA
SOURCE: NPR



**BOOTS (SHRIMP OR
RAIN, YOUR PICK)**
SOURCE: AIME'E GOWLAND





2. Past meetings recap, reminders, updates



Updates

Funding opportunities, capacity building

- **Georgetown Climate Center Affordable Housing & Flood Risk**
 - Second work group meeting
 - Hybrid deliverable of visioning/strategy document
- **Resilience Roadmap work with EPA**
 - Introductory meeting with advisory group meeting this summer
 - Putting together a research group to support the work
- **Environmental Finance Centers**
 - Region-wide workshop, working on a survey to inform content
- **NAS Gulf Research Program**
 - *Evaluating linkages between open space preservation, and vacant/abandoned property in Louisiana Watershed Region 7: synergies and opportunities for coordinating flood protection strategies*
- **NOAA RESTORE & RESTORE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**
 - Pending



Updates

Transition Team

- **Will tackle relevant documents for transitioning one at a time**
 - **Starting with bylaws**
 - Will come to RSC with a request for feedback in the near future



Updates

Conferences and other updates

- **Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning**

- Presenting *Applying Network Analysis and Plan Evaluation (NAPE) Methodologies for Regional Institution Building within the Louisiana Watershed Initiative*, Dr. Thomas Douthat

- **At What Point Managed Retreat**

- We sent in an abstract, it wasn't selected – failure is just as important as success

- **A. Ivan Johnson Young Professional Award – American Water Resources Association**

- Rachelle Sanderson will receive this award at the American Water Resources Association conference in November

- **Lindsey Lamana's Thesis Defense**

- July 20 - Rachelle will send a link



Updates

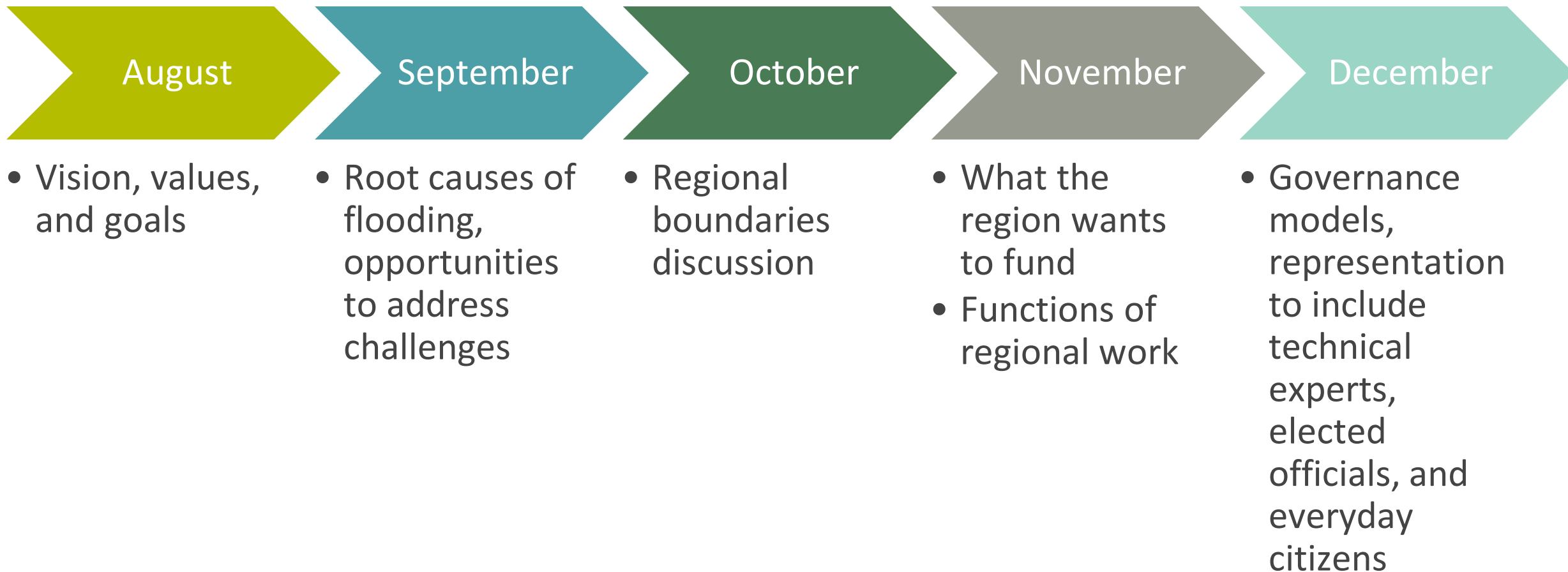
Open call for updates

- **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**

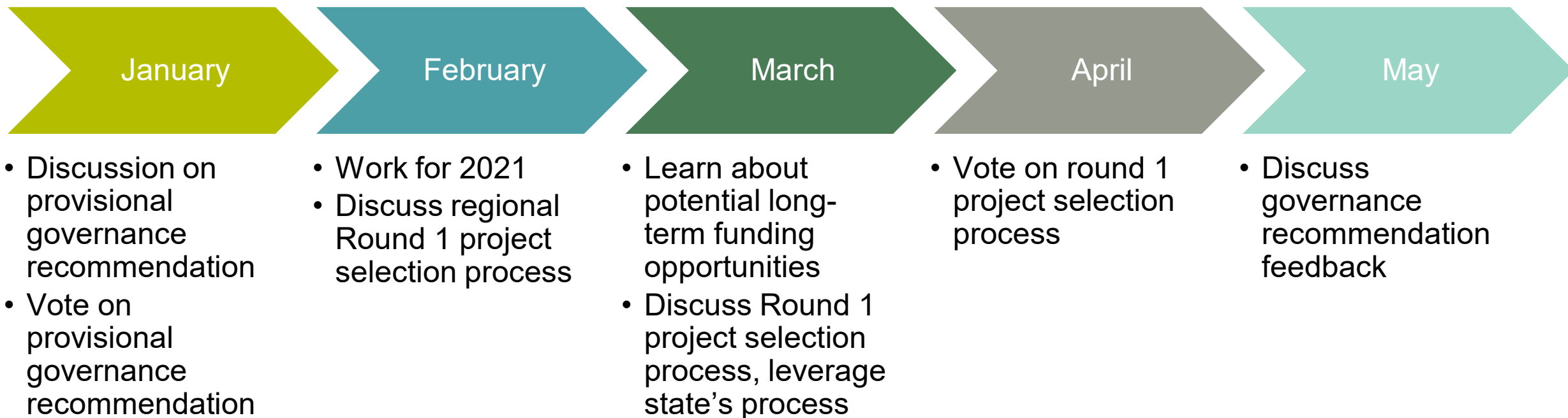


A quick recap...

2020



A quick recap...



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

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



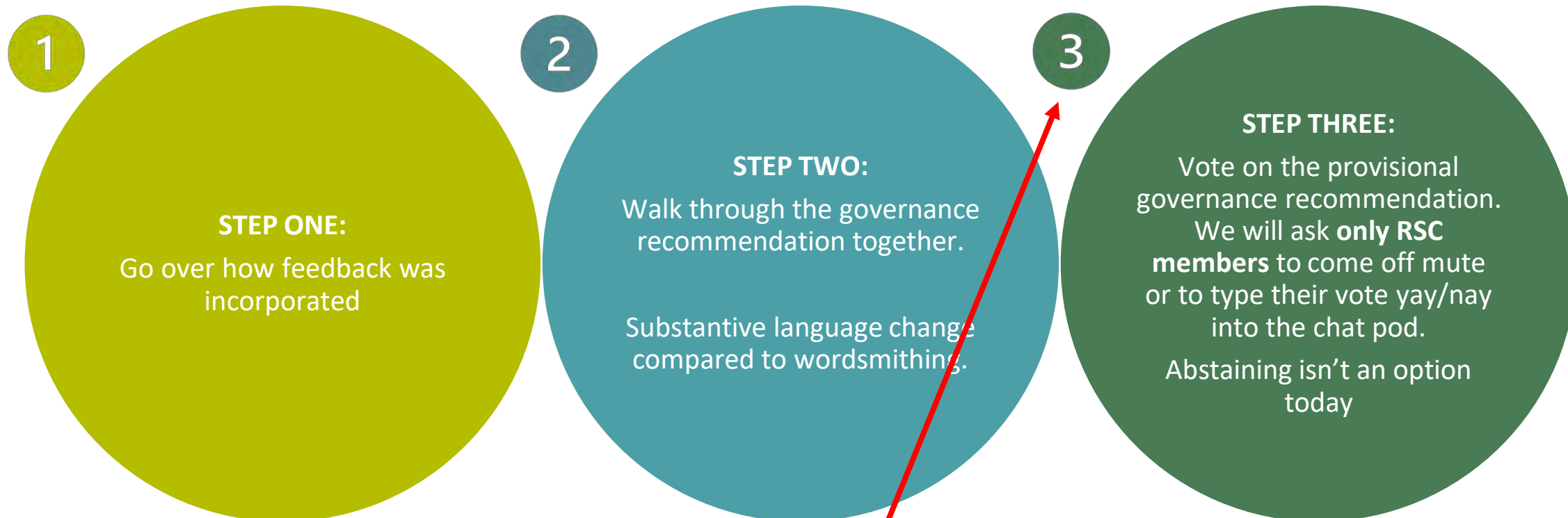


3. Feedback on provisional governance recommendation and vote



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



How feedback was incorporated

Process

1. Reviewed feedback from discussions again and considered in tandem with the Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework
2. Reviewed feedback from RSC (6 responses) on feedback document that outlined most to least mentioned aspects of feedback and considered in tandem with the Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework
3. Feedback was incorporated as a shift in language in the document and/or as an example under one of the programmatic activities or was a larger shift to be more inclusive of the needs identified
4. Did not incorporate items that were specific to program buildout (i.e. incorporate flood risk information into school curriculum). This information has been set aside to consider for incorporation into future programs that support the activities outlined in the governance rec.
5. Did not incorporate items that were not mentioned often and that are not in alignment with CDBG-MIT Action Plan and/or Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework and/or consensus-based activities conducted with the RSC (i.e. should not exist ~3.85% of comments received)

1



Changes in language

To better reflect feedback

Follow along with tracked changes version of the document

Overall

- Region 7 Watershed Body = Watershed Committee - there is no legal definition for Council vs Committee vs Commission, etc. this was chosen for the simplicity of transitioning this entity. Collaboration can occur under any structure as long as it is defined
- Removal of glossary and recommendation date and vote table
- Replacement of regional goals for reference of the Guiding Principles Framework



Changes in language

To better reflect feedback

Activities section – Planning and development guidance

- What changed: Consolidated technical assistance and coordination aspects into a singular bullet point
- What hasn't changed: minimum development standards recommended from the State



Changes in language

To better reflect feedback

Activities section – Projects

- What changed: removed “review”
- What hasn’t changed: focus on technical assistance



Changes in language

To better reflect feedback

Activities section – Data and modeling

- What changed: inclusion of technical data and information repository and technical assistance
- What hasn't changed: focus on having state-level support (housing, repository, etc.) for data and modeling



Changes in language

To better reflect feedback

Activities section – Outreach and engagement

- What changed: consolidation of outreach, education, and capacity building into one bullet point
- What hasn't changed: support for watershed-related outreach, education, capacity building to the benefit of those within the region



Changes in language

To better reflect feedback

Roadmap section

- What changed: Addition of membership being established in each region's bylaws
- What hasn't changed: Everything else is consistent with the



Governance Rec.

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

- Provide technical assistance on projects as deemed appropriate by the future bylaws of the Region 7 Watershed Committee



DATA & MODELING.

- Repository of technical data and information, including H&H models at the State level that is informed by, and made accessible to, the region.
- Technical assistance for interpretation and utilization of information and data

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT GUIDANCE

- State should adopt minimum development standards based on local environmental risk factors based on regional input.
- Region will provide technical assistance and offer best practices to local entities on land use planning and development guidance as it relates to floodplain management and flood risk reduction.



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

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

2



Governance Rec.

Authorities

- What changed: consolidation of capacity building, technical assistance items into one bullet point; removed “review”; removed “oversee”
- What hasn’t changed: Same spirit within the authorities as before... authority to provide assistance, to cooperate, to manage regional planning processes; to receive funds



Governance Rec.

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. **Recommended in each region's bylaws**
- 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 & Public Comment

- 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
- **Note:** the updated governance recommendation was made available to the RSC on June 18, 2021 and was made available on the website for the public and via email on June 21, 2021

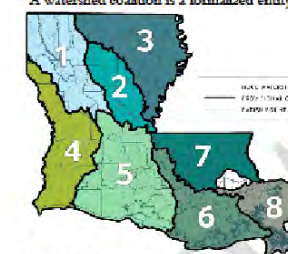
• PUBLIC COMMENT

3



REGION 7 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 FDDs [Planning and Development Districts]², 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.”

Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed

Within the following text Region 7 Watershed Committee will be used instead of Watershed Coalition. The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region 7 Steering Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

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



Voting

Instructions

- The region will adopt the Region 7 governance recommendation dated June 18, 2021 in the document title with the agreed upon changes from this Regional Steering Committee meeting.

AFFILIATION	VOTE	AFFILIATION	VOTE
Ascension Parish	yay	St. Tammany Parish	yay
East Baton Rouge Parish	yay	Tangipahoa Parish	yay
East Feliciana	absent	Washington Parish	yay
Iberville Parish	yay	West Feliciana Parish	yay
Livingston Parish	yay	Amite River Basin Commission	yay
St. Charles Parish	yay	Regional rep - Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge	yay
St. Helena Parish	yay	Regional rep - Pontchartrain Conservancy or Tangipahoa Parish Council	yay
St. James Parish	yay	Regional rep - St. John Coastal Advisory Committee, LA Recycling Coalition, Keep St. John Beautiful, etc.	yay
St. John the Baptist Parish	yay		

3



CONGRATS!



3



Next steps

Governance recommendation

1. Council has sought input from the regions and this recommendation will be presented to the Watershed Council.
 - a. The recommendations will also be presented with a state-wide alignment recommendation.
 - b. This information will be sent to the Governor's Office as a recommendation as well to be introduced to legislation during the 2022 session beginning March 14, 2022.
 - c. We will keep everyone updated on this as we have more information provided from our partners at the State.
2. Region 7 Transition Team will continue working on documents to support on the implementation of the recommendation
3. Regional staff and volunteers, in coordination with State staff, will begin expanding programs in support of items in the governance recommendation





4. Regional project update



Round 1

Projects selected

- Over \$26M awarded to Region 7
- Over 40% of Round 1 funds to support projects by applicants in Region 7
- Will be sharing login with RSC members so that everyone can see the applications (OCD, what kind of access does this allow?)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 BAYOU DUPLANTIER FLOODPLAIN ACQUISITION | 4 DELLWOOD DRAINAGE PUMP STATION HARDENING |
| 2 WARD CREEK FLOODPLAIN ACQUISITION | 5 EAST SLIDELL RING LEVEE |
| 3 CYPRESS BAYOU GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE | 6 LEE STREET DRAINAGE PUMP STATION HARDENING |



Round 1

Project selection stats

- 14% of the project costs would have been able to be funded through the \$100M Round 1 program
- Capacity building is an obvious need across the state- many applications are considered ineligible because of lack of data, technical information, etc.

Region	Approved for Round 1 Funding	Not Approved for Round 1 Funding	Pending Regional Steering Committee Review	Grand Total	Percentage approved	Percentage for RSC review	Total percent eligible	Total percent not approved
7	6	55	5	66	9.09%	7.58%	16.67%	83.33%
All regions	16	157	18	191	12.50%	9.42%	17.80%	82.20%



Round 1

Regional project selection update

- Focus of July 22 meeting
- RSC adopted State's process. State's process changed.

Prior to June 8	After June 8
\$5M threshold	\$6M threshold
Regions would receive projects that were deemed eligible that were under \$5M	Regions received all projects that were deemed eligible
	Discussion with applicants above \$6M to see if matching funds have been obtained since the app was submitted



ROUND 1 PROJECTS

REGION 7

BACKGROUND

Round 1 of the Watershed Projects Grant Program is a \$100 million project funding opportunity for eligible projects submitted by local and regional public entities. The goal of Round 1 is to fund low-risk, high-impact projects that will significantly reduce regional flood risk and improve the natural functions of floodplains, without adversely impacting surrounding communities. The program also encourages coordination of watershed management among parishes to align project funding with regional flood risk priorities.

\$100 MILLION PROJECT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- \$60 MILLION IN PROJECTS AWARDED BY THE STATE
- \$40 MILLION IN PROJECTS AWARDED BY REGIONS (\$5 MILLION PER REGION)

REGION 7 PROJECTS

The state scored and awarded funding to the Region 7 projects listed below based on the Round 1 [scoring and evaluation criteria](#) published on the LWI website. *Next step: Unfunded projects will move on to the regional selection process, in which each watershed region will recommend up to \$5 million in projects to fund.*

LWI's goal is to reduce statewide flood risk through a coordinated, regional, watershed-based approach. The eight state-designated provisional [watershed regions](#) facilitate collaboration, coordinate watershed management among parishes and align project funding with regional flood risk priorities.

FUNDED PROJECTS

Project name	Grantee	Region	Cost	Type	Description
Bayou Duplantier Floodplain Acquisition	East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	7	\$8.5 million	Physical Nonstructural Mitigation	Purchase of about 200 acres along Bayou Duplantier to halt potential development in the area and preserve the floodway and floodplain in its natural condition

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE



Round 1

What discussions with applicants will include

- Discussion with those who have projects that are above \$6M
- Review of additional funding sources that may make the project below \$6M if they are available by OCD for HUD requirements
 - This will have to be approved
- Waiting on further instructions from OCD



Future rounds

Moving forward

- Some applicants demonstrated need but will require support from the state to design and construct projects
- This is not a competitive program
- State and local applicants are partners
- This kicks off Round 1, but there will be more opportunities to apply for Rounds 2 and 3





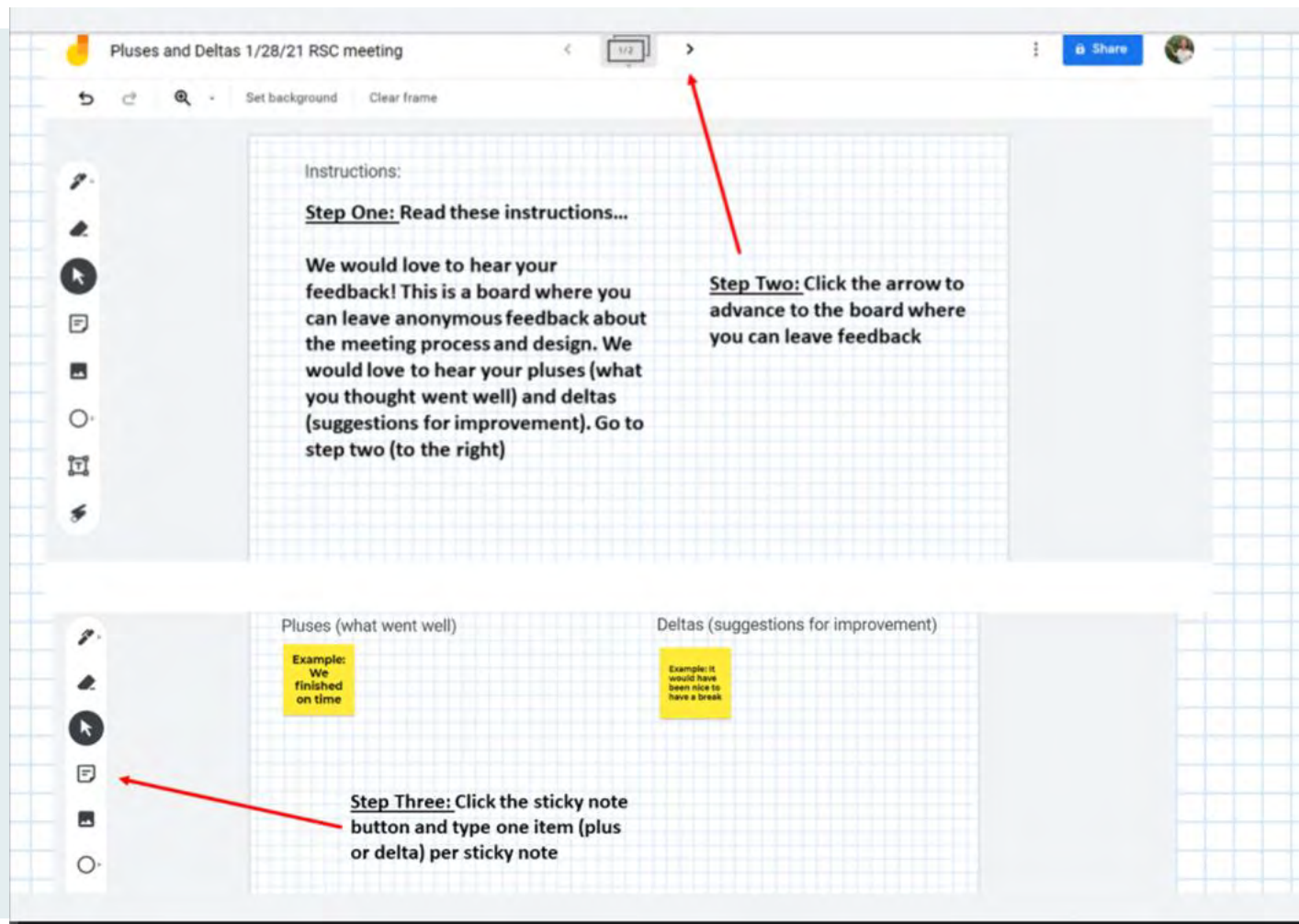
5. Public comment



Feedback from previous meeting

Feedback from last meeting's pluses and deltas board.

None



The screenshot shows a Miro board titled "Pluses and Deltas 1/28/21 RSC meeting". The board is divided into three sections. The top section contains instructions: "Instructions: Step One: Read these instructions... We would love to hear your feedback! This is a board where you can leave anonymous feedback about the meeting process and design. We would love to hear your pluses (what you thought went well) and deltas (suggestions for improvement). Go to step two (to the right) Step Two: Click the arrow to advance to the board where you can leave feedback". The middle section is titled "Pluses (what went well)" and "Deltas (suggestions for improvement)". It contains two sticky notes: "Example: We finished on time" and "Example: It would have been nice to have a break". The bottom section contains the text "Step Three: Click the sticky note button and type one item (plus or delta) per sticky note". A red arrow points to the right arrow in the top navigation bar, and another red arrow points to the sticky note button in the left toolbar.



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 May 25 meeting minutes
- Upcoming meetings:
 - July 22 from 1 to 3:30pm - does anyone want to host this?
- 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

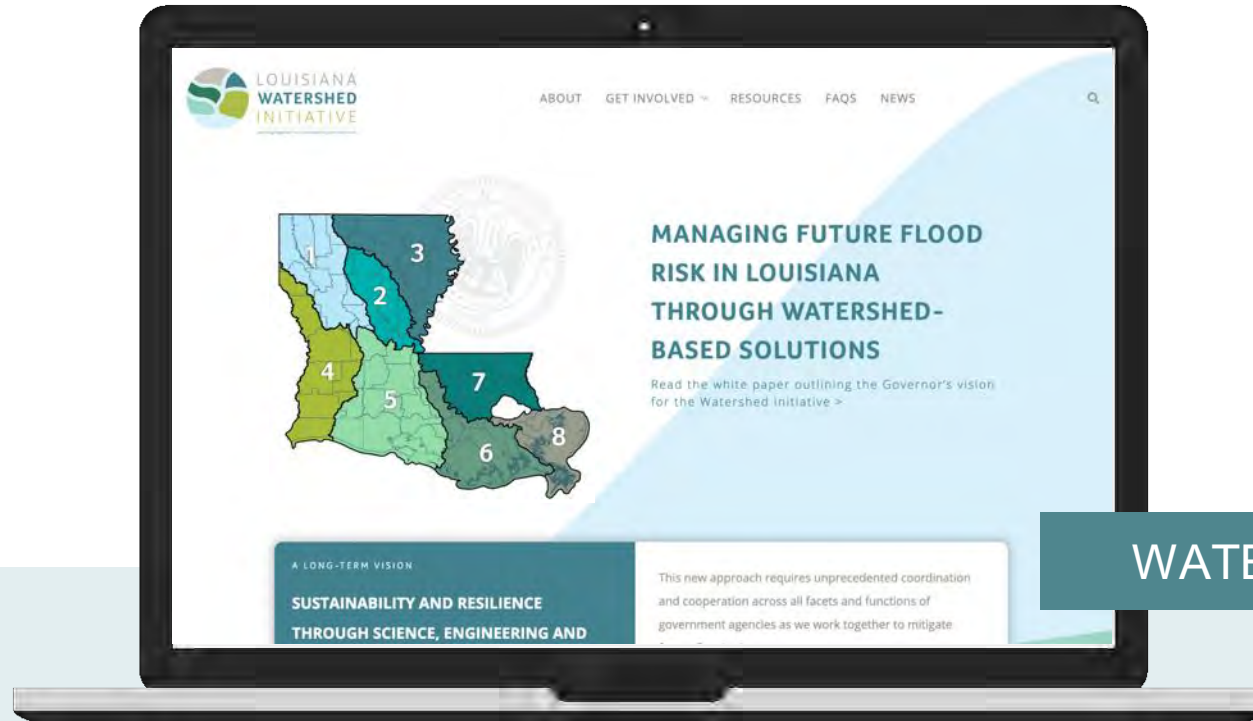


 @LAWATERSHEDINITIATIVE

 @LAWATERSHED

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THANK YOU



REGION 7

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

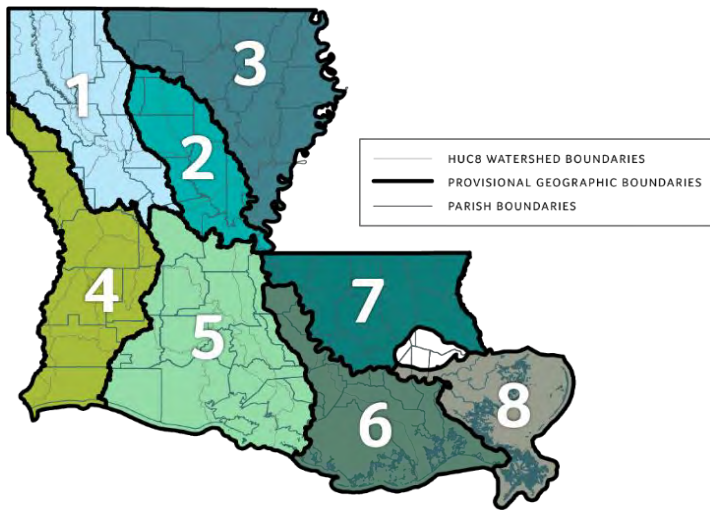


Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed

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 Committee will be used instead of Watershed Coalition. The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region 7 Steering Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

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



Document History

Version 1: Region 7 Provisional Governance Recommendation was adopted on January 28, 2021. The vote tally was 12 for the recommendation and 2 against.

Version 2: This document was presented to the Regional Steering Committee during the June 29, 2021 Steering Committee and was adopted. The vote tally was unanimous for the adoption of the recommendation.

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

- 1. Ascension Parish (Yay)*
- 2. East Baton Rouge Parish (Yay)*
- 3. Iberville Parish (Yay)*
- 4. Livingston Parish (Yay)*
- 5. St. Charles Parish (Yay)*
- 6. St. Helena Parish (Yay)*
- 7. St. John the Baptist Parish (Yay)*
- 8. St. Tammany Parish (Yay)*
- 9. Tangipahoa Parish (Yay)*
- 10. Washington Parish (Yay)*
- 11. West Feliciana Parish (Yay)*
- 12. Regional Representative, Amite River Basin Commission (Yay)*
- 13. Regional Representative, Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge (Yay)*
- 14. Regional Representative, Pontchartrain Conservancy (Yay)*
- 15. Regional Representative, Individual who serves on the following committees and boards... St. John Coastal Advisory Committee, LA Recycling Coalition, Keep St. John Beautiful, etc. (Yay)*

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

None

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

- 16. East Feliciana Parish*



REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Region 7 Watershed Committee should conduct regional watershed management activities and assist local entities through coordination, collaboration, technical assistance, and capacity building related to watershed management as detailed below. These activities are in support of the regional values, vision, and goals as stated in the Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework².

Planning and Development Guidance

- State should adopt minimum development standards based on local environmental risk factors based on regional input.
 - Examples **may** include: 1 foot of freeboard.
- Region will provide technical assistance and offer best practices to local entities on land use planning and development guidance as it relates to floodplain management and flood risk reduction.
 - Examples **may** include: Support for development of model ordinances; Support for best practices

Support for Projects

- Provide technical assistance on projects as deemed appropriate by the future bylaws of the Region 7 Watershed Committee
 - Examples **may** include: Support for project conceptualization; Support for project co-design processes; Support for data access and interpretation; Support for identifying funding streams

Data and Modeling

- Repository of technical data and information, including H&H models at the State level that is informed by, and made accessible to, the region.
 - Examples **may** include: State-wide data portal website.
- Technical assistance for interpretation and utilization of information and data
 - Examples **may** include: Support for interpretation and use of H&H model information and other data; Translation of models into action for projects, policy, and programs; Provide information and have a technical expert run models and provide outputs; Partnership opportunities for a regional gauge network.

²

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54cbd54fe4b047a0380cae54/t/5f8846c923173127aa9b64fd/1602766539187/Guiding+Principles+Framework+Updated+10132020.pdf>



Outreach and Engagement

- Conduct intentional watershed-related outreach and education to support long-term capacity building from the region to public entities and citizens.
 - Examples **may** include: Education for legislators; Clearly communicate updates to policy and regulations to elected officials and the general public; Flood risk communication to general public; Localized outreach and engagement efforts on resilience, flooding, climate change, relationship/impacts to other sectors; Training for citizens, practitioners, and elected officials.

Recommended Authorities for the Region 7 Watershed Committee

- Authority to provide support for projects, data and information, planning, outreach and engagement, and programs as determined by the Region and/or State
- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies.
- Authority to manage and facilitate regional planning processes.
- Authority to receive, manage, and distribute funds from governmental, private, or non-profit sources, including the authority to set policies for consistency 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 Committee and shall perform administrative functions related to the work of the Region 7 Watershed Committee.

How will the future Region 7 Watershed Committee 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 Committee bylaws/regional charters.

Who should be represented?

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



recommended that the membership structure is established separately in each region's bylaws in coordination with the State's recommendations.

What is the State's role?

The Region 7 Watershed Committee 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 Committee for funding?

The Region 7 Watershed Committee 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.

From: [Dietmar Rietschier](#)
To: [Bridget Bailey](#); [Bobbi Jo Breland](#); [ronny@saveourlake.org](#); [jclark@ibervilleparish.com](#); [Major Coleman](#); [Ryan Donadieu](#); [Michael Enlow](#); [Rene Pastorek](#); [skistler@lpgov.com](#); [Ross Liner](#); [Earl Matherne](#); [Gary Megoo](#); [Tom Stephens](#); [East Feliciana Floodplain](#); [Karen Zito](#); [larry@bblawyers.net](#); [Rachelle Sanderson](#)
Subject: FW: Xerox Scan
Date: Monday, June 28, 2021 8:31:15 PM
Attachments: [Xerox Scan.pdf](#)

Region 7 Steering committee Members:

The attachment are some of my, Dietmar, ARBC, comments regarding the governance for Region 7.

- 1) ARBC is in favor of two regions in Region 7. Region 7A consisting of the Amite River Basin and Region 7B consisting of the remaining watersheds (6Huc 8's) in Region 7.
- 2) We are in favor of a " coalition" instead of a committee or body. As far as I know the other Regions in the State are formed on the principle of coalition.
- 3) The proposed coalition strongly emphasizes to be composed of PDD's, MPO's, NGO's and political subdivisions. What is missing is to mention existing "core" water Management agencies of the state such as Drainage Districts, Levee Boards, Basin Commissions and other "existing " Water Management agencies. These agencies should be included in the coalition. There is a lot to be learned from these agencies and they learn from the watershed program. It is far better to work and improve these agencies within the context of the watershed program rather than to ignore them and reinvent the wheel.
- 4) Region 7 should be divided by the 7 watersheds (HUC-8) that compose this Region 7. Each watershed should be governed by commissioners representing the parishes or portion of parishes that compose the watershed. These are the commissions that will make decisions on strategies, projects and programs for each respective watershed. Region 7 is too large to be governed by one Committee. The needs and priorities in St Tammany Parish are different than the Baton Rouge Metropolitan area. Although they share the Ponchartrain Basin, they are hydrologically separated by the HUC-8 watersheds between them.
- 5) ARBC has a particular concern about the existing ARBC governance vs the proposed new regional governance. It is not clear what governance will prevail in the Amite River Basin. This is a particular situation that might not apply to other areas, but it is of great concern for us.

In general principles, we are in favor of an approach that considers existing agencies and resources, streamline effectiveness and incorporate into the watershed program.

I apologize for my attachment- rough and tough-, I do not have an editable version of the proposal.

Dietmar Rietschier
Executive Director
ARBC



Comments by ARBC.

Region 7 should be divided into Regions 7A and 7B.
Region 7A will consist of the Amite River Watershed and
Region 7B will consist of the rest of Parishes in Region 7.

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



Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed

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 Committee will be used instead of Watershed Coalition. The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region 7 Steering Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

Commented [R51]: Changes made that are not shown in tracked changes to help with viewing ease:
-Removed recommendation date and vote table was removed
-Region 7 Watershed Body is replaced with Watershed Committee throughout
-Removed the glossary
-Removed text referencing the glossary
-Removed regional goals and instead provided an overall reference for the Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework

Drainage Districts, Levee Boards, Basin Commissions and other Water management agencies

Substitute “committee” with “Coalition”.

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



Document History

Version 1: Region 7 Provisional Governance Recommendation was adopted on January 28, 2021. The vote tally was 12 for the recommendation and 2 against. See Appendix C to see the document.

Version 2: This document will be presented to the Regional Steering Committee during the June 29, 2021 Steering Committee.

Coalition

REGIONAL SUMMARY ACTIVITIES

The Region 7 Watershed Committee should conduct regional watershed management activities and assist local entities with through coordination, collaboration, technical assistance, and capacity building related to watershed management watershed planning, policy, project prioritization, and data/modeling in the following ways as detailed below. These activities are in support of the regional values, vision, and goals as stated in the Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework².

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.
 - Examples may include: 1 foot of freeboard.
- Region will provide technical assistance and offer best practices to local entities on land use planning and development guidance as it relates to floodplain management and flood risk reduction.
 - Examples may include: Support for development of model ordinances; Support for best practices
- 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.

²

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54c6d54fe4b047a0380cac54/t/5f8846c923173127aa0b64fd/1602766539187/Guiding+Principles+Framework+Updates+10132020.pdf>



Support for Projects

- ~~Review and/or provide~~ Provide technical assistance on ~~major~~ projects as deemed appropriate by the future bylaws of the Region 7 Watershed Committee
 - Examples may include: Support for project conceptualization; Support for project co-design processes; Support for data access and interpretation; Support for identifying funding streams

Coalition

Data and Modeling

- Repository of technical data and information, including H&H models at the State level that is informed by, and made accessible to, the region.
 - Examples may include: State-wide data portal website.
- Technical assistance for interpretation and utilization of information and data
 - Examples may include: Support for interpretation and use of H&H model information and other data; Translation of models into action for projects, policy, and programs; Provide information and have a technical expert run models and provide outputs; Partnership opportunities for a regional gauge network.
- ~~Models should initially be housed at the state level and over time with support, capacity should be built at the regional level.~~

Projects and Programs should originate
 In each watershed---- 7 in region 7—
 Managed by an appointed commission
 Consisting representatives of each parish
 or portion of a parish within the watershed.

Outreach and Engagement

- Provide opportunities for watershed-related outreach and education to support long-term capacity building from the region to public entities and citizens.
 - Examples may include: Education for legislators; Clearly communicate updates to policy and regulations to elected officials and the general public; Flood risk communication to general public; Localized outreach and engagement efforts on resilience, flooding, climate change, relationship/impacts to other sectors; Training for citizens, practitioners, and elected officials.
- ~~Provide opportunities for watershed-related outreach and education.~~
- ~~Long-term capacity building from the region to public entities and citizens~~

Scratched out and reinstated as an example



Recommended Authorities for the Region 7 Watershed Committee

Exclude Projects

- Authority to ~~review and/or provide support for technical assistance for regional projects, data and information, planning, outreach and engagement, and programs as determined by the Region and/or State.~~
- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies.
- Authority to ~~oversee, manage and facilitate~~ 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.

Governmental sources (funding) have Regulations and requirements associated with the funding. It is not a local, regional prerogative 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:

How will the State manage the Region 7 Watershed?

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

Each Watershed Commission (7 in Region 7) Shall facilitate all meetings for their respective Watersheds. Commissions will be members of the Coalition.

How will the State manage Region 7 Watershed (CRPC)?

Legislatively via a state commission, board, or agency.

How do/should we coordinate standards among the 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 Committee bylaws/regional charters.

Why should the membership be reconstituted?

The Region 7 Watershed Committee should be composed of a mix of technical experts, elected officials (or their appointees), and citizens/organizations outside of government entities who represent citizens. It is recommended that the membership structure is established separately in each region's bylaws in coordination with the State's recommendations.

The Region 7 Watershed Committee 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 to obtain funding?

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

Continued on next page.



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.