

REPORTING PERIOD START	26-Jun-21
REPORTING PERIOD END	25-Aug-21
WATERSHED REGION	7
NATIONAL OBJECTIVE	N/A – Planning Activities
ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY	Planning; HCDA Sec. 105(a)(12)
EXPENDITURE/COMPLETION STATUS	207,678.00

RCBG PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT

REPORTING CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT PERSON NAME	Rachelle Sanderson
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WATERSHED COORDINATION METRICS

HOURS OF WORK PERFORMED (by Watershed Coordinator)	447.75
NUMBER OF MEETINGS FACILITATED	(1) July 22 RSC meeting (2) August 26 RSC meeting
ATTENDANCE PER MEETING	(1) July 22 RSC meeting, 40 people registered virtually and 8 people in person (2) August 26 RSC meeting, 70 people registered
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)	0 - Region 7 Governance Recommendation was adopted in Q2
NUMBER OF MEETINGS WITH LOCAL OR REGIONAL OR REGIONAL PUBLIC OFFICIALS	0 - Region 7 Governance Recommendation was adopted in Q2
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	0 - Region 7 Governance Recommendation was adopted in Q2
NUMBER OF COMMENTS RECEIVED	0 - Region 7 Governance Recommendation was adopted in Q2

CRS PARTICIPATION METRICS

CRS SCORES AND/OR NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES (one input per year)	Since October 1, 2020 no new communities were added. Slidell decreased from a 7 to an 8. St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes increased from an 8 to a 7. A map of CRS communities is in the narrative 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 3 (07/01/2021 – 09/30/2021) 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 listed below were hosted virtually on Zoom.

Regional Steering Committee

JULY 22, 2021 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (RSC) MEETING

This meeting focused on:

1. An update on H&H model development from Dewberry
2. Voting on the regional project recommendation

AUGUST 26, 2021 RSC MEETING

This meeting focused on feedback on draft membership structures that were presented by the Transition Team.

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

Since the adoption of the Region 7 Governance Recommendation in June, the Transition Team, a group of subject matter experts who understand organizational processes, governance, and development, have been working to provide an update on recommended membership structures. This discussion took place August 26, 2021.



Regional Project Selection Process

The Regional Steering Committee voted to adopt a recommendation to fund East Baton Rouge Parish for the Jones Creek Detention project. Votes are recorded in the meeting minutes which are attached to the report.

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. **It is important to note that various teams that have been brought together in supporting Region 7 have been successful in securing 2 out of 3 funding opportunities, bringing together over 75 individuals across 45 institutions, and leveraging over \$1M through capacity building efforts and research grants. The third funding opportunity has not been announced yet.**

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: 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:** 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, first workshop anticipated to take place November 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:** The identified Environmental Finance Centers will work with CRPC's Region 7 LWI program efforts to develop a 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.

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

Status: Awarded June 29, 2021, work is underway and final case study will be prepared by the end of the year

- **Funds awarded:** \$2,000
- **Duration:** Spring 2021 – Mid-2022
- **Activity:** A team of individuals from LSU, NYU, and Capital Region Planning Commission will be putting together a case study titled, *Can Meandering Paths Connect a Fragmented Planning System? Developing a regional governance structure to enable watershed planning in Southeast, Louisiana, inquiry study*. This case study will focus on the development of the Region 7 governance structure and the challenge and opportunities discovered within that process.

NOAA RESTORE SCIENCE PROGRAM FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: PLANNING FOR ACTIONABLE SCIENCE

Status: Awarded

- **Funds awarded:** \$115,172 to Capital Region Planning Commission
- **Duration:** September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022
- **Activity:** To develop a cost-benefit framework for watershed management that will inform and reduce uncertainties during project selection of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. The project team includes: Capital Region Planning Commission (Lead), LSU, LSU Agricultural Center, Pontchartrain Conservancy, Louisiana's Office of Community Development and, Department of Environmental Quality. More information can be found here: <https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/funding/2-3-million-for-planning-actionable-science>

RESTORE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Status: Awarded

- **Funds awarded:** \$426,543 to The Data Center
- **Duration:** September 2021 – September 2023
- **Activity:** This research funded through the RESTORE Center of Excellence will: (1) develop new modeling strategies and micro-level data sources for exploring coastal population change. A major contribution of the project is to address issues of measurement at an appropriate temporal and geographic scale to understanding individual- and community-level responses to coastal hazards. (2) Measure the empirical effects of flood events on altering the baseline pattern of population and economic shifts in coastal Louisiana. (3) Build bridges between the Coastal Master Plan and other regional planning efforts that are anchored in empirical analysis and projection uncertainty. The project team includes: The Data Center of Southeast Louisiana (Lead), LSU, and Capital Region Planning Commission.



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

Status: Full proposal submitted, pending feedback

The project team submitted a full proposal in late August 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...

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 high fidelity 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).

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

Status: Workshops completed, awaiting next steps

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: Accepted.** 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: Pending.** Sustainability & Development Conference, No Place Like Home: Preparing for and Managing Climate-Induced Migration and Managed

PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

- **July 21:** Summer American Water Resources Association Summer Virtual Conference. Presented in partnership with OCD, LSU, and Acadiana Planning Commission

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PURSUED

- **Status: accepted.** Journal of the American Planning Association: Anti-Racist Futures Abstract. A team comprised of individuals from CRPC, LSU, NYU, and Georgetown successfully submitted an abstract titled, *Building Spaces for Social and Racial Equity within the “Quiet Revolution” in Regionalism in Gulf South: A Case Study of Plans and Planning Capacity in Louisiana Watershed Region 7.* The full article will be released in JAPA’s special edition in 2022.



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 the following items:

- Planning strategies for coding and evaluation
- Finalized evaluation protocol and coding structure
- Network section is pending
- Preliminary evaluation work on reviewing parish Goals and Objectives based on the Plan Evaluation Protocol
- During this month we also inventoried the Gravity Drainage Districts in LWI
 - Drafting of final documentation and reports. Identifying how to communicate what plans say about policies and projects that adhere to LWI policies and eligible procedures
- Orientation for new student to support work

SUBDIVISION CODE EVALUATION

This work has focused on the following items:

- At this point, we are considering the subdivision coding part of the spreadsheet as complete
- Significant progress on schema for evaluation
- Vetting codes, discussions with East Baton Rouge and Tangipahoa
- Further review of codes to double check interpretations, etc.

COLLABORATION AND WORK ON CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION

This work has focused on the following items:

- 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 Georgetown, CRPC, and NYU on Journal of American Planning Association paper
- Resource Building Activities:
 - 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?

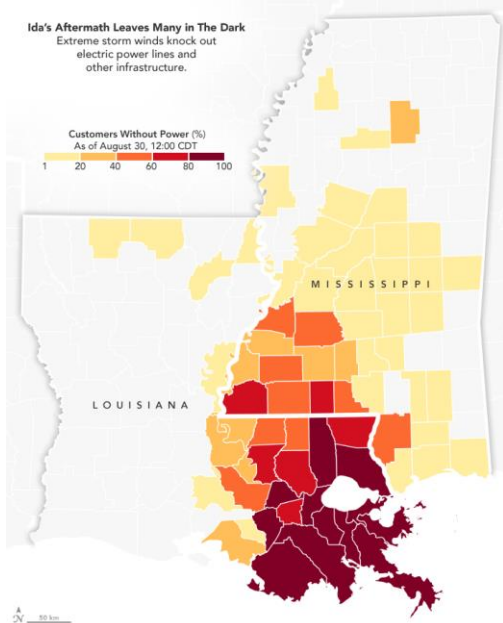


Figure 1: Image by NASA Earth Observatory

Hurricane Ida

Hurricane Ida was an extraordinarily devastating event for all of southeast Louisiana. Every single Parish in Region 7 had a federal disaster declaration and many were left without power (Figure 3) for weeks and without clean water for days to weeks. As of September 30, 2021 are still residents within the region that do not have power or access to internet at home. Recovery will take years in many places and it is possible that some communities will never fully recover.

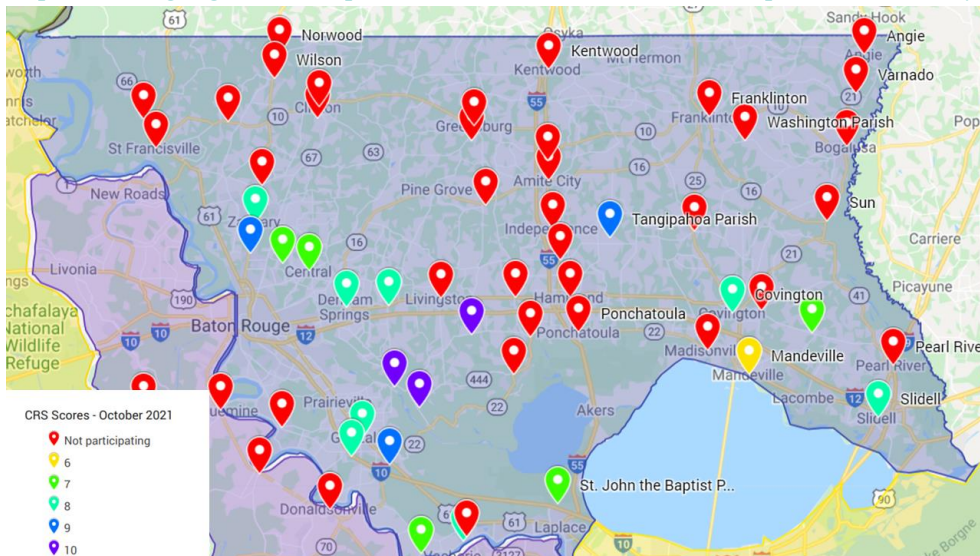
COVID-19

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

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

Since October 1, 2020 no new communities were added. Slidell decreased from a 7 to an 8. St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes increased from an 8 to a 7. Below is a map of communities across the Region. An interactive version of the map can be accessed at:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1VHvFvECT_iphX0ObvltS_FGy40nD_wxn&usp=sharing





HAVE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES CHANGED? HOW?

The goals and objectives have not changed.



Capital Region Planning Commission

Ascension • East Baton Rouge • East Feliciana • Iberville • Livingston • Pointe Coupee • St. Helena
Tangipahoa • Washington • West Baton Rouge • West Feliciana

Regional Steering Committee Member Sign In

July 22, 2021 | 1 PM – 3:30 PM

	NAME	AFFILIATION	EMAIL ADDRESS
1	Tom STEPHENS	ERL PARISH	TSTEPHENS@ERLA.GOV
2	Bridgett Bailey	Tangipahoa Parish Govt	bbailey@tangipahoa.org
3	Ronny CARTER	LPBF	ronny@scienceforourcast.org
4	Gary Mayo	WFDL	gmayo@wfpf.org
5	Ross Liner	st. Tammany	
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Capital Region Planning Commission

Ascension • East Baton Rouge • East Feliciana • Iberville • Livingston • Pointe Coupee • St. Helena
Tangipahoa • Washington • West Baton Rouge • West Feliciana

Regional Steering Committee Public Sign In July 22, 2021 | 1 PM – 3:30 PM

	NAME	AFFILIATION	EMAIL ADDRESS
1	Kim Marsussek	CRPC	kmarsussek@crpcla.org
2	Jon Leo	EBR Environmental Law	chornirvus@aol.com
3	Rachelle Trahan	CRPC	rtrahan@crpcla.org
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REGION 7

JULY 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.

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: Tell us about your summer vacation plans, past or future! Where to?

UPDATES

Funding opportunities, capacity building

- RESTORE Center of Excellence
 - Awarded (\$426,543); The Data Center (lead), LSU Dept. of Environmental Sciences and Experimental Statistics, and CRPC; *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 Climate Equity Solutions pilot cohorts. 1 out of 5 teams across the nation. Begins August 5th.



- Includes: Tampa Bay, Charlotte, Cleveland, Louisiana, and Detroit
- Lincoln Institute Case Study Award
 - Awarded (\$2,000): June 29, 2021: Dr. Thomas Douthat (LSU), Manny Patole (NYU/ Build BR), Rachelle Sanderson (CRPC); *Can Meandering Paths Connect a Fragmented Planning System? Developing a regional governance structure to enable watershed planning in Southeast, Louisiana, inquiry study*

Capacity building and Transition Team

- Environmental Finance Centers
 - Region-wide workshop, working on a survey to inform content. Survey will be sent to staffers and elected officials by the end of the month
- Georgetown Climate Center Affordable Housing and Flood Risk
 - Workshop in the fall to focus on initial build out of goals and objectives based on interviews, case studies, additional research
- Transition Team
 - Draft bylaws and membership structure are being finalized prior to sending out to our initial volunteer reviewers (Karen + Bridget)
 - Once the reviewers provide their comments and they are addressed, the entire RSC will be asked for feedback

Conferences and other updates

- American Water Resources Association Virtual Summer Conference Connecting Land & Water for Healthy Communities
 - Presented this week with Alex Carter (OCD), Kelia Bingham (APC, Region 5), and Dr. Thomas Douthat (LSU)
- American Water Resources Association Fall in person meeting
 - Abstract accepted, *What do we do when there is too much water to wrap our heads around? Find another way to think about it*
- OCD LWI Program staff transitions
 - Nicolette Jones is the new liaison for OCD Region 7 and replacing Evelyn Campo's position

UPDATES

RSC Members

- Home Builders Association Industry Day, August 17th

A QUICK RECAP

2020-2021

- August-October – Vision, values, and goals; Root causes of flooding, opportunities to address challenges
- November-December – What kind of work the region would like to do, Governance models, initial feedback for recommendation
- January-March – Adopt provisional governance recommendation; Discuss Round 1 Regional projects; Discuss potential funding resources



- April-May – Vote on Round 1 regional project selection process; Discuss governance recommendation
- June – Adopt governance recommendation

REMINDER

- 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

H&H MODELS

Executed by Dewberry Engineering & DOTD

- Sam Crampton: Project Manager and Technical Lead and Jerri Daniels: Stakeholder Engagement Lead

8 HUC 8 Watersheds	
Bayou Sara-Thompson	Amite
Lake Maurepas	Tickfaw
Tangipahoa	Liberty Bayou-Tchefuncte
Lower Pearl	Bogue Chitto

UPDATES

- Authorization was given to begin work on 3 watersheds: Bayou Sara-Thompson, Lake Maurepas, and Liberty Bayou-Tchefuncte
 - Expect a 22-month timeline from start to completion
 - Waiting for notice to proceed from Amite HUC within the next 1-2 months (August-September). Expecting to receive notice from the remaining watersheds towards the end of the year to the beginning of the next year
- Schedule:

Key Tasks

- Data collection effort
 - Outreach was performed to all communities within Region 7 to discuss needs and data
 - Any new information that arises (surveying, modes, studies, etc.) is welcome to be shared
- Scoping process considerations
 - Population density
 - Priority goes towards where the greatest risk is
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Surveying the community's needs
 - Urbanization (historic/projected)
 - Observe where urbanization has occurred to obtain data for future development projections



- Geologic regions
 - Survey the general nature of flooding to determine what model type is needed (ex. 1D or 2D models)

Model Tiers

- High Flood Risk Areas
 - Includes very detailed structure and channel survey
 - High resolution 1D and 2D modeling where it is appropriate
- Medium Flood Risk Areas
 - Limited detail survey
 - Area includes structures that may have minimal impact
- Low Flood Risk Areas
 - Low to no detail survey
 - Area includes little development potential

Scope

- Based on all considerations above and others, the areas with higher risk will have much more details in the modeling

Survey Effort

- Survey is in process
- Combination of bathymetric survey (collecting sonar), traditional ground survey, ground based laser scanning, and leveraging of existing survey
- Coordinating with existing survey efforts to avoid duplication

Modeling guidance

- Models are developed in compliance with the Technical Design and Quality Team (TDQ) Guidance on Modeling Methodology (GMM)
- Guidance provides primary and value-added criteria, modeling methodologies, and naming conventions for streams and model features using a 16-digit code.
- Modeling methodologies
 - HEC-HMS hydrologic modeling
 - HEC-RAS hydraulic modeling
 - Most widely used model, provides good quality models, can be used nationally and locally
 - Calibration and validation event selection
 - Used to recreate the 2016 flood among others and use the data to validate and calibrate models so the model can be confidently used
- Model feature naming methodology
 - Does not follow standard geographic names information system (GNIS)
 - Ex. Amite River
 - GMM uses 16-digit alphanumeric codes
- Model refinement
 - Models will be scalable
 - Can add details/refinements



Q&A

(Comments are not verbatim)

- Honora Buras: When looking at projections for future development, you should include all the subdivisions and other development that are already approved, especially those in the floodplain that include large levels of fill. Ascension and EBR just approved several more in the past week.
 - Sam Crampton: Challenges are the time and topography that you use when you get to subdivision level. Any subdivision that has been built at the time of LIDAR flights will be included in the topography. It can't get down to individual drainage level, but it can look at large flood level. Generally, the collection of the LIDAR flights will be recent. The LIDAR flights took place this past winter. Since new subdivisions are being built, the scans are limited to at the time of the LIDAR flight.
- Bridget Bailey: We had several phase developments in Tangipahoa Parish, would it be beneficial to supply you with the finished buildout for that to calculate the remaining area that is to be impacted, specifically areas in the floodplain?
 - Sam Crampton: Yes, anything that as built, should be shared but it needs to be in a GIS format or digital format with the proper certifications, and not PDF. As for anything not built yet, we can't include because we can't guarantee conditions. But in the future, when development is further on, it can be merged.
- Honora Buras: Also need to include the approved projects in EBR to increase flow in most of the bayous that drain into Manchac as well as Manchac dredging planned. All of these projects will remove substantial floodplain forests. Will you include the role of the landcover type (especially forests) in mitigating/slowing runoff?
 - Sam Crampton: If it is ongoing, we need to know schedule for its completion. Let's keep communication going. Any ongoing or complete, we can merge it to the models. Please share the schedule with us so we can merge into the models and any updates.
- Ivy Mathieu: For the naming convention, will there be a look up table in the program. How will people correlate the street name with the number?
 - Sam Crampton: No, I imagine a spread sheet will be made. The GIS files can be used but when you are in HECRAS you will see this number that will probably have a sheet where you look up the name and the code and the corresponding code for RAS.
- Dietmar Rietschier: Is this related to USGS numbering system? Or is it brand new system?
 - Sam Crampton: This is a brand-new system; no, it does not follow USGS which USACE and FEMA follows. This has been developed by TDQ specifically for LWI program because there are many creeks with the same names so typically when you do FEMA or USACE study, we want to make sure it is unique so made a 16-digit naming system.
 - Jerri Daniels: We did not make it, we received from TDQ
 - Dietmar Rietschier: I suggest we ask the Watershed Initiative because the USGS has been established for 100+ many years and is used nationwide. In my opinion, it should be correlated with whatever we are doing at the national level because they do produce products now and the future and if we



- don't have a commonality, we will have a translation and communication problem. From my point of view, we ask Watershed Initiative to see how to connect it with the existing system.
- Sam Crampton: It is a good system to have in the background, but HEC-RAS does not follow the same code as GIS. RAS doesn't support coding domain programs like GIS can, so we have this system in the background that is compatible. This code was developed from scratch and did not originate from the USGS 16-digit code. Please share any concerns or recommendations you may have to Rachelle if they come up.
 - Tom Stephens: As we do our hydrology and hydraulics, will you publish and answer all questions about what name works with what stream or leave it to the local agency to determine which stream is what? Because some streams have different names.
 - Sam Crampton: Yes, that is when you would have to make a look up sheet that correlates the codes to their official stream names. We default to what USGS has in their system. If there are any conflicts, please share if you have any local names or different names.
 - Monty McNutt: Do you have any rough idea of how long it will take to complete the Amite model? Will you use modeling completed by HNTB for EBR?
 - Sam Crampton: Yes, the goal is to use the HNTB data for EBR but there are some differences in methodology between that and what TDQ has provided. The biggest difference will be on the hydrology side using guidance on modeling methodology. We need to develop new hydrology and our goal is to take the models and then apply hydrology into them. We would have to rename streamlines to comply with the guidance. The plan is to update models where it is needed to be in alignment with the guidance.
 - Dietmar Rietschier: In ARBC, our requirements with the project here, USACE, this basin, you are correct, having to identify every stream. My question is sensitivity. A lot of groups say this model will tell us one thing or the other, they can't really tell us everything, in regards to sensitivity, we want to develop a subdivision about 200, or 500 acres, will the model be able to identify the difference in runoff or whatever needs to be calculated or would you still have to do the studies for every subdivision like runoff etc. The question is the sensitivity of the model. Could you give guidance on what the regional model is and what it is not.
 - Sam Crampton: In terms of the subdivision level, stormwater controls, RAS software will not be very good at identifying at that micro level, not great for modeling smaller but better for bigger reservoirs. On a regional model, you will still be able to input the subdivision into the model and see the impact they have on floodplains but for modeling things like onsite runoff, you're better off with a smaller package that developers use like hydro flow. They are your best bests for small road designs. But when it comes to channels, levees, and dams, this would be the way to go.
 - Rachelle Sanderson: Do you have an outreach plan that could be shared with RSC folks so they can track the work that you do? It would be helpful.
 - Sam Crampton: We don't have specific outreach plan, but in the workplans made for each watershed, it is a key point.
 - Jerri Daniels: Yes, we can pull it out and summarize, but it is based on engineering deliverable milestones. When a phase has been completed and it is blessed by everyone, we can debrief on progress, but we welcome the opportunity to update however frequently you suggest.



- Rachelle Sanderson: (Directed towards RSC) Would having more frequent updates from the modeling team be helpful?
 - Bridget Bailey: Yes, maybe bimonthly or every other month would be a good idea to see on progress made and next steps.
- Rachelle Sanderson: Nicolette or Billy with DOTD, for questions about TDQ team or modeling, naming conventions, who would we want to forward feedback to?
 - Billy Williamson: Sara Manguin with ECOM, she has been the lead consulting at OCD with that process. As for the duration for the Amite model, 20 months is what was issued, but the team wanted to further review the existing data to make sure we weren't duplicating. In order to do that without delaying publishment of other HUCs, the Amite will be a couple months behind the other 3 but after than it should be a 20-month following.

REGIONAL PROJECT UPDATE, VOTE, AND DISCUSSION

UPDATES

Reminder: RSC adopted project selection process via state's process. State scored the projects that met dollar threshold would be selected. There were 5 projects to choose from, and 2 of the highest ranking were selected. Threshold was \$6M. There were discussions with the two highest ranking project applicants.

1. East Baton Rouge Parish
 - a. Project: Jones Creek Detention Improvements
 - b. Cost: \$9.27 million
 - c. Type: Flood Storage
2. Pontchartrain Levee District
 - a. Project: Bayou Boyle Retention Areas
 - b. Cost: \$6.08 million
 - c. Type: Flood Storage

Both applicants were able to find additional funds to get to \$6M or below for our threshold. The additional funding was approved by OCD and compliant with the CDBG guidelines.

VOTE FOR REGIONAL PROJECT SELECTION

Vote: Region 7, in accordance with the regional project selection process for Round 1 determined April 22, 2021, votes to fund the Jones Creek Detention Improvements project for a total of \$6M

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

Ross Liner called for motion.

Earl Matherne motioned.

Bridget Bailey seconded.

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	Absent
Iberville Parish	Absent	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	Absent
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		

RESULTS: No objections, motion passed.

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

ROUND 1 FEEDBACK

Based on the Round 1 project application and selection process...

- What should we start doing?
 - Projects should be ranked by size, small projects for rural areas, and larger projects for regional areas
 - Rural areas and small towns would get assistance at the regional/state level for data analysis and project analysis support
 - Clarify what project type qualifies (ex. Development vs planning), and would be funded to level the playing field
 - Evaluate project types differently (development, NAI etc.)
- What should we stop doing? No comments made. Submit feedback via email to rsanderson@crpcla.org
- What should we continue doing? No comments made. Submit feedback via email to rsanderson@crpcla.org

COMMENTS

(Comments are not verbatim)

- Earl Matherne: Our hands are tied with the application grant process. Our projects were so small, “it is just not worth the paperwork”.
- Nicolette Jones: First, at the state level, we went through process of reviewing applications. Looking back the applications was an administrative burden. What strategic things could we do as a region to prioritize projects?
- Major Coleman: When I understood this process, round 1, it wasn’t supposed to be competitive, and it would be data driven. It sounds like the next rounds will be the same way
- Nicolette Jones: Round 1 was always a competitive process. There was a scoring process. Going forward, we may pursue project development. The state learned that there were many great proposals submitted, but many of the applications showed that some communities needed extra technical capacity, using data, that the



projects would not result in adverse impacts. We should foster collaboration and not competition. Round 1 was successful in distributing awards. Design and support pilot program will be made to help folks and identify where there are technical capacity needs that could be project scope analysis, and data collection for H&H study. We plan to provide that assistance that we could not supply in a competitive atmosphere.

- Dietmar Rietschier: I am trying to protect the smaller guys, when you say all the materials have been used and finding adverse impacts, that works on the mega scale, but not really on the micro scale. Some of the smaller projects, it is a waste to do H&H modeling. There needs to be segregation between smaller and big projects to level out the field.
- Major Coleman: We are from rural area, and we were not to participate because we don't have the technical support to get the data. If we worked in the region, we could get the benefits from the region that we are a part of.
- Earl Matherne: Applying was apparently not worth it, we had the capacity, but the projects were small, and the public works and grants folks felt that the extra H&H work would justify what they deemed as noncompetitive project. We just saw it wasn't going to get funded and have a regional benefit.
- Bridget Bailey: From a state perspective – some of us got mixed feedback on whether it would be shovel ready development/construction type vs planning, preventative procedures, policies on putting regulatory aspects in place. When we asked about planning, funding, and stormwater management projects, we were told they would not be qualifying projects. But seeing the list of projects and what was funded, they were non construction and related to planning, or regulatory aspects. I think if we need to clarify beforehand what qualifies and how they will be funded. I don't think that gave us a level playing field.
- Nicolette Jones: The state should be giving more detail about design support pilot program for Round 2 at the upcoming watershed council meeting August 5 in BR.

FUTURE ROUNDS

Moving Forward – Round 2

- Some applicants demonstrated need but will require support from the state to design and construct and construct projects
- Design support pilot program is only a portion of Round 2 program
 - There will be another opportunity to apply for Round 2 funding
- The pilot program will be the first launch of Round 2 and is meant to address technical capacity and design support needs seen during Round 1. The state aims to work with local applicants directly.
- This is not a competitive program
- Round 2 policies and procedures are being reviewed
 - Design support pilot to target applicants that may need supporting information, technical assistance, etc., that could not be provided in a competitive environment.
- Feedback will be relayed to LWI Coordinating Agencies to ensure comments are heard and likely be incorporated



PUBLIC COMMENT + REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MEETING CLOSEOUT

- Watershed Council Meeting – August 5, 2021
- Upcoming meetings: August 26, 2021 from 1:00-3:30pm
 - Does anyone want to host this?
 - Center for River Studies – BR?
- Action Items

ADOPTION OF JUNE 29 MEETING MINUTES

Comments about the minutes

Dietmar Rietschier submitted comments that were incorporated ahead of the meeting. LWI staff looked at the comments, listened to the meeting recording from the June 29 meeting, and transcribed the audio where noted on the comments that were received.

Dietmar Rietschier: “Look, it so happened, ok, that I actually asked Rachelle when I first read the minutes, they were... I felt misquoted me, and that is because you know how the people don’t understand me by my accents, and so that happens to me, that is not the first time. So she sent it to me and yes, correct, everything I said it is correct but I have to tell you what I did, I said well you know I never heard the audio before and I started listening and I said well since I’m at it, let me, let me see you know and I start listening not only what I said but for what I said but also for what a lot of people were saying, and one of the things that I found out is there’s a lot left out. I found out like Fred mentioned something and he’s not, I mean I heard it on the audio and he’s not even on the minutes. And other people were making comments way more that what the minutes state. I believe somebody needs to hope we can review them and go over them and summarize these additional statements that were made by me and several people. So that’s what I found out. You know, I’m not saying I don’t adopt the minutes but I really wish somebody will, and I would be glad Rachelle to show you, or whoever can send them, show you the side of the page in red where things are missing. If you think it’s irrelevant, leave it out, or I think there are things that were said that were relevant that should be included in the minutes.”

Ross Liner: “So, Dietmar, maybe what we can do is, the minutes are supposed to be more concise than an actual transcription. So you know, maybe we can just put a little asterisk on there or look disclaimer saying you know, please



refer to the video if you want to see or hear the entire meeting. So the minutes are meant to be more concise and just you know kind of pick up the major points here and there. I read the minutes every meeting. I don't have a major concern with them because always can refer back to the video for the full transcription if need, so I appreciate your comments and if we're looking to adopt the meeting minutes with edits from Dietmar, can I get a motion please?

Motion

Ross Liner called for motion.
Bridget Bailey motioned.
Steve Kistler seconded
No objections, motion passed.

Rachelle Sanderson: "One quick note, we actually went in and resolved the comments and sent out the most recent updated meeting minutes that I worked with Tori on, who has been incorporating the comments so her and I worked together to go to the meeting recording and transcribed those particular sections to make sure that they were clarified and in alignment with the comments and the meeting." **Please note these were the same meeting minutes that the RSC voted on because the comments had already been incorporated.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ross Liner called for motion.
Major Coleman motioned.
Tom Stevens seconded.
No objections, motion passed.

RESOURCES SHARED DURING THE MEETING

https://jamboard.google.com/d/1V1pywqqmQN7m2CXRd7vDTqofKBt2o_qVA56evURc61k/edit?usp=sharing

MEETING CHAT

00:18:06 Jerri Daniels: Rachelle, you are hard to hear. It sounds like you are far away from the microphone.

00:18:31 Jerri Daniels: much better now.

00:18:46 Nicolette Jones: will do

00:26:46 Honora Buras: Honora Buras (CPRA)

00:27:08 Jerri Daniels: Jerri Daniels, Dewberry Engineering, Inc.

00:27:13 Laci Melancon: Laci Melancon, Coastal Technical Assistance Center

00:27:22 Jenny Schexnayder: Jenny Schexnayder, Nicholls State University Office of Coastal Support

00:27:30 Erin Schilling: Erin Schilling with Dana Brown & Associates

00:30:06 Nicolette Jones: Please enter your name and affiliation in the chat if you have not already done so. Thanks!

00:35:37 DBA - Delaney McGuinness: Delaney McGuinness, Dana Brown & Associates



00:39:12Larry Bankston: Larry S Bankston Attorney ARBC

00:44:28David Campbell: I didn't see the TCHEFUNCTE WATERSHED on the map. Did I miss it??

00:44:58Seth Bradley: Seth Bradley - Dewberry

00:45:11Jerri Daniels: Tchefuncte is in the Liberty-Bayou Tchefuncte HUC8 and will be authorized in the next round.

00:45:35Melissa Kennedy: Melissa Kennedy, HNTB

00:46:15Billy Williamson, DOTD: Jerri,

00:46:54Billy Williamson, DOTD: HUC08070201 Liberty Bayou-Tchefuncte was issued as part of Task Order 2.

00:47:27Jerri Daniels: Thank you Billy! my mistake-

00:52:40Honora Buras: When looking at projections for future development, you should include all the subdivisions and other development that are already approved, especially those in the floodplain that include large levels of fill.

Ascension and EBR just approved several more in the past week.

00:59:09Billy Williamson, DOTD: Billy Williamson, DOTD

01:02:25Honora Buras: Also need to include the approved projects in EBR to increase flow in most of the bayous that drain into Manchac as well as Manchac dredging planned. All of these projects will remove substantial floodplain forests. Will you include the role of the landcover type (especially forests) in mitigating/slowing runoff?

01:19:04Monty McNutt, Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Civic Ass.: Do you have any rough idea of how long it will take to complete the Amite model? Will you use modeling completed by HNTB for EBR?

01:21:03Robert Jacobsen: Sam--the USGS National Hydrography Dataset has a numbering convention to assign a unique ID to every channel. Why has the TDQ opted for a totally new convention. (This is separate from GNIS.)

01:23:35Robert Jacobsen: OK--so if these numbers are an extension of the NHD ID great!

01:31:13Honora Buras: Some of these subdivisions are hundreds of homes and many feet of fill in what used to be floodplain forests. We need to understand their effects individually and cumulatively.

01:32:53Monty McNutt, Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Civic Ass.: Do you have a rough idea of how long it will take to complete the Amite model?

01:48:51Larry Bankston: I would suggest that there be a posting of the cost benefit ratio as done by the USACE. With an actual number.

01:56:31Honora Buras: It might be useful to have separate pots of money for particular types and/or sizes of projects. For example - land acquisition/detention could be one pot, and then regional and local drainage projects could each be separate pots. Maybe a separate pot for innovative or collaborative solutions to regional issues.

02:08:02LWI REGION 7:

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haring

02:09:36LWI REGION 7: rsanderson@crpcla.org



LWI Region 7 Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting

July 22, 2021

RACHELLE SANDERSON, CRPC

KIM MAROUSEK, CRPC

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. Hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) modeling update
4. Regional project update and discussion
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

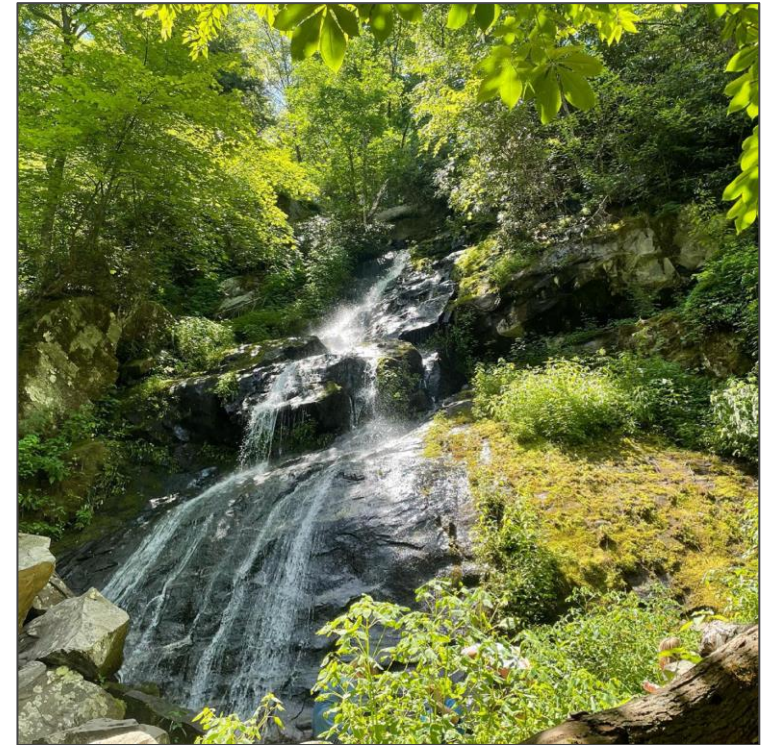
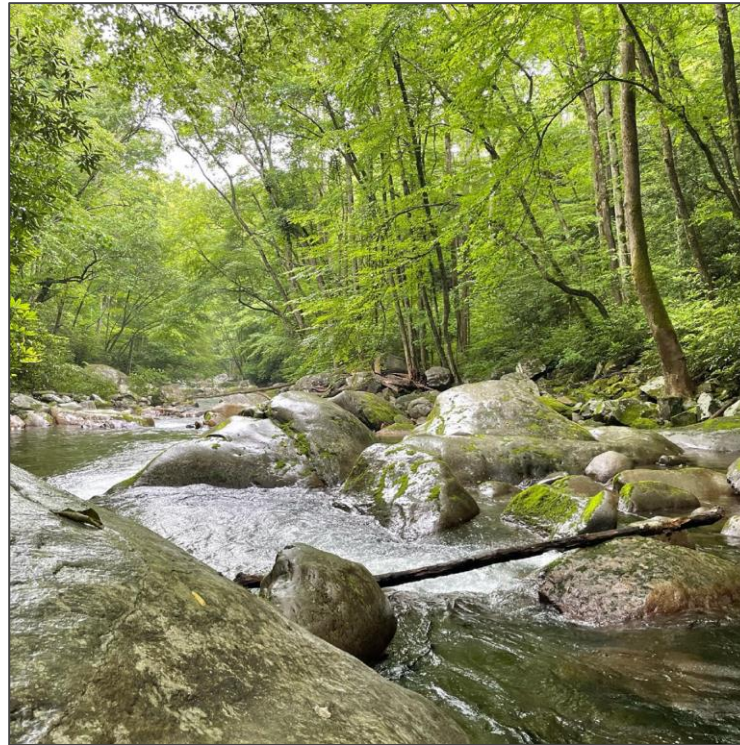
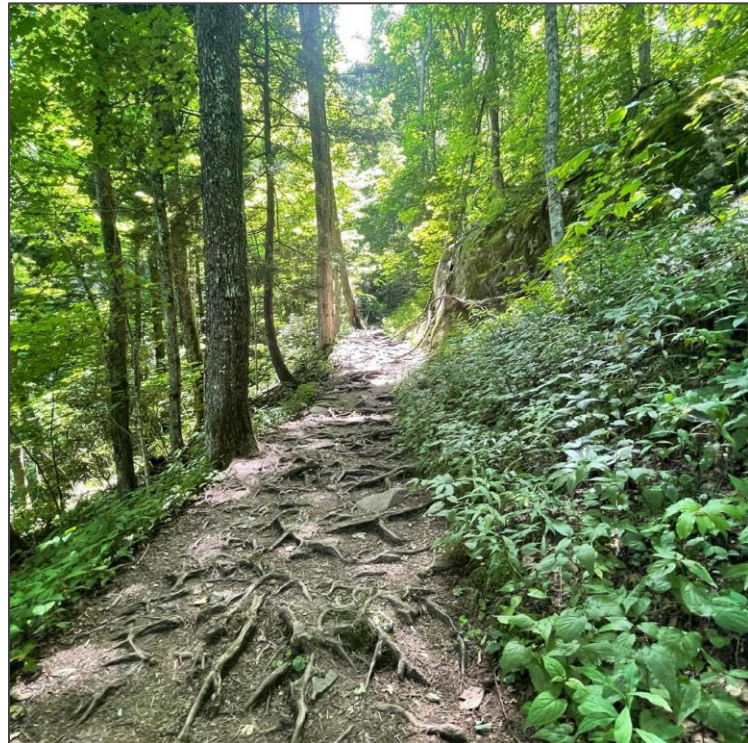


NAME	AFFILIATION
Mike Enlow and/or Ron Savoy	Ascension Parish
Tom Stephens and/or Fred Raiford	East Baton Rouge Parish
James Stewart and/or Joni Stone	East Feliciana
John Clark	Iberville Parish
Steve Kistler and/or Mark Harrell	Livingston Parish
Earl Matherne and/or Stephanie Bruning	St. Charles Parish
Major Coleman and/or Jeremy Williams	St. Helena Parish
Ryan Donadieu and/or Ryan Larousse	St. James Parish
Tara Lambeth and/or Rene Pastorek	St. John the Baptist Parish
Ross Liner and/or Jay Watson	St. Tammany Parish
Bridget Bailey and/or Melissa Cowart	Tangipahoa Parish
Bobbi Jo Breland and/or Alex Sumrall	Washington Parish
Gary Mego and/or Emily Cobb	West Feliciana Parish
Dietmar Rietschier and/or Larry Bankston	Amite River Basin Commission
Karen Zito and/or Diane Baum	Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge
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
- Tell us about your summer vacation plans, past or future! Where to?





2. Past meetings recap, reminders, updates



Updates

Funding opportunities, capacity building

- **RESTORE Center of Excellence**
 - Awarded (\$426,543); The Data Center (lead), LSU Dept. of Environmental Sciences and Experimental Statistics, and CRPC; *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 Climate Equity Solutions pilot cohorts. One of 5 teams across the nation. Begins August 5th.
- **Lincoln Institute Case Study Award**
 - Awarded (\$2,000) June 29, 2021; Dr. Thomas Douthat (LSU) , Manny Patole (NYU/Build BR), Rachelle Sanderson (CRPC); *Can Meandering Paths Connect a Fragmented Planning System? Developing a regional governance structure to enable watershed planning in Southeast, Louisiana, inquiry study*



Updates

Capacity building and Transition Team

- **Environmental Finance Centers**
 - Region-wide workshop, working on a survey to inform content. Survey will be sent to staffers and elected officials by the end of the month.
- **Georgetown Climate Center Affordable Housing & Flood Risk**
 - Workshops in the fall to focus on initial build out of goals and objectives based on interviews, case studies, additional research
- **Transition Team**
 - Draft bylaws and membership structure are being finalized prior to sending out to our initial volunteer reviewers (Karen + Bridget)
 - Once the reviewers provide their comments and they're addressed, the entire RSC will be asked for feedback



Updates

Conferences and other updates

- **American Water Resources Association Virtual Summer Conference Connecting Land & Water for Healthy Communities**
 - Presented this week with Alex Carter (OCD), Kelia Bingham (APC, Region 5), and Dr. Thomas Douthat (LSU)
- **American Water Resources Association Fall in person meeting**
 - Abstract accepted, *What do we do when there is too much water to wrap our heads around? Find another way to think about it*
- **OCD LWI Program staff transitions**



Updates

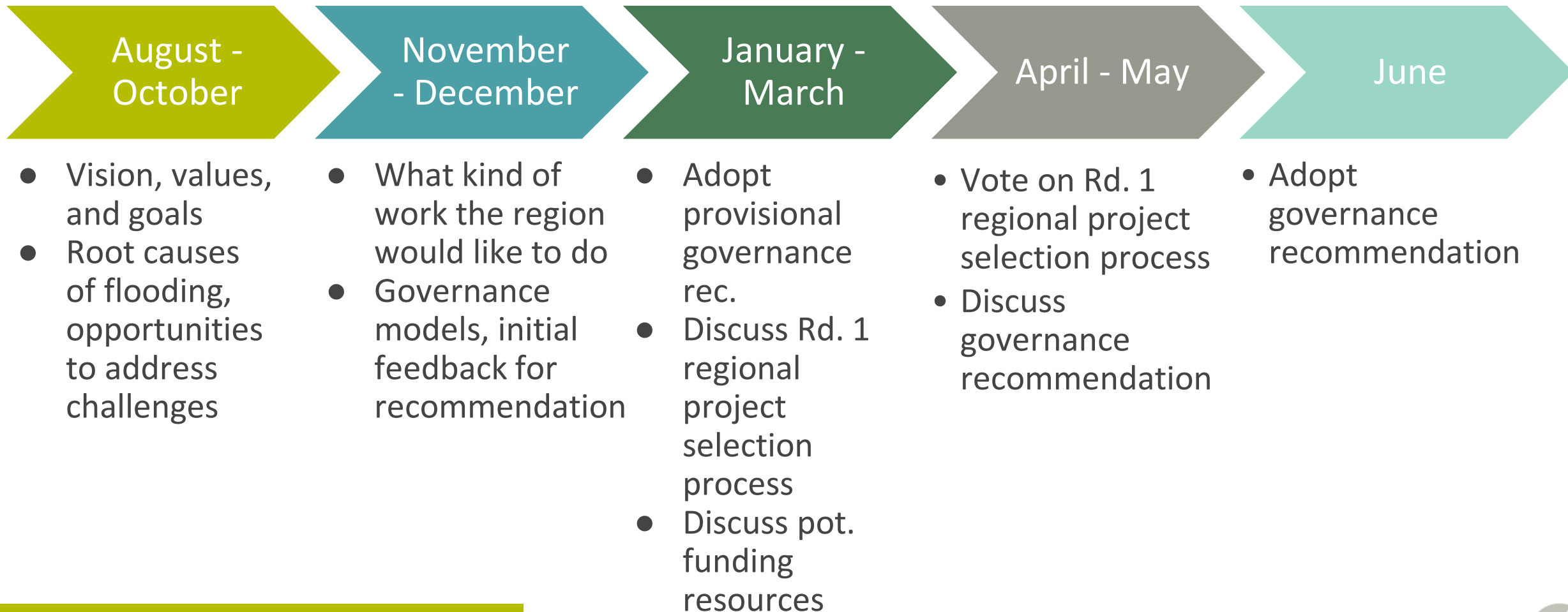
Open call for updates

- **RSC members, let us know if you have updates**
 - Home Builders Association Industry Day, August 17
- **Other folks on the call, please put updates you'd like to share in the chat pod**



A quick recap...

2020 - 2021



Reminder...

Mission & vision

LWI Mission:

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

Region 7 Vision:

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



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.





3. H&H modeling updates





REGION 7 REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

July 22, 2021

Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling Update
Dewberry – Region 7 Modeling Consultant

LOUISIANA
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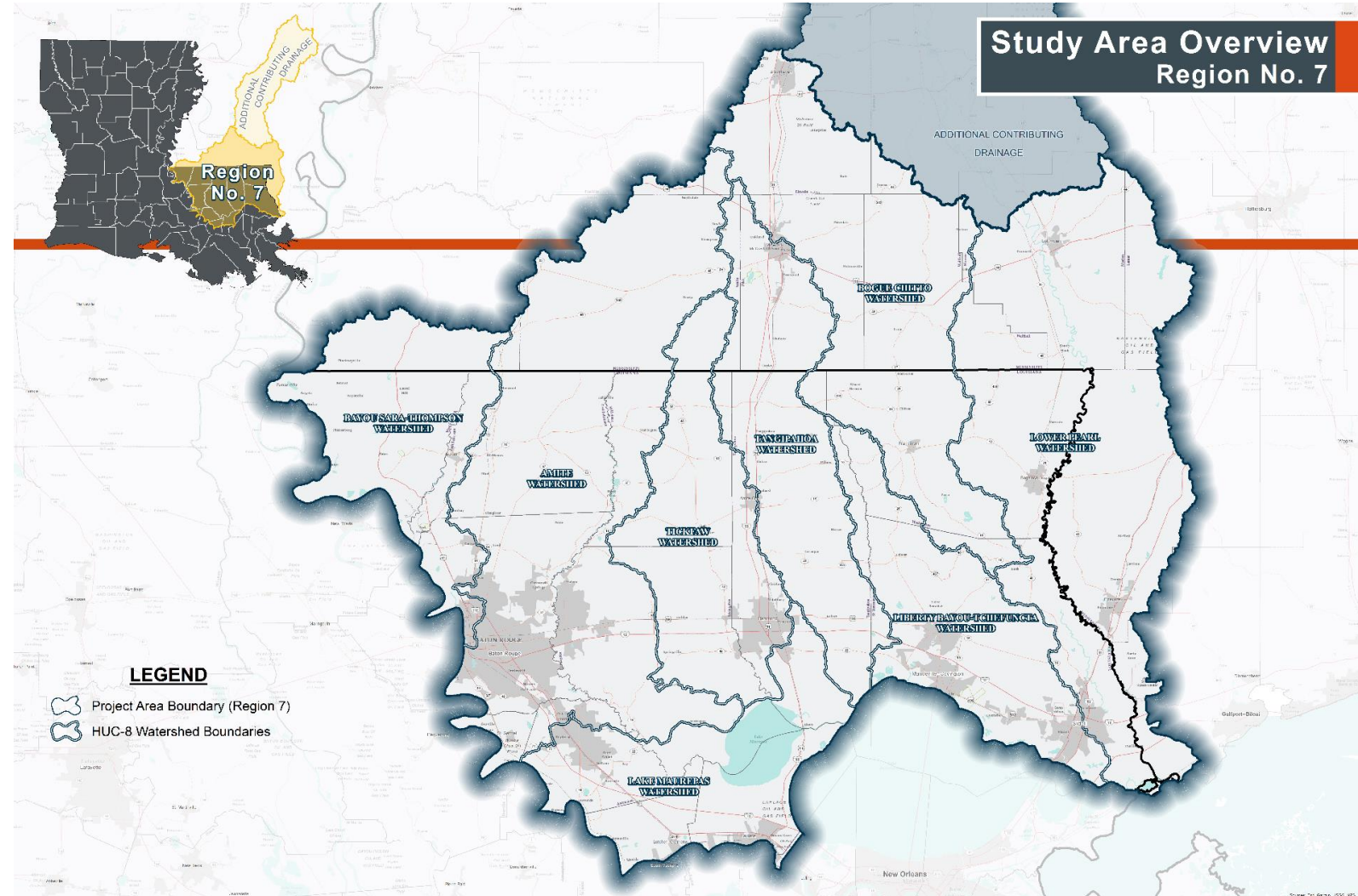
working together for sustainability and resilience

Region 7 Team

- Dewberry (Prime)
- Forte and Tablada (Survey lead)
- FTN Associates (QC lead)

8 HUC 8 Watersheds

Bayou Sara-Thompson	Tangipahoa
Amite	Liberty Bayou-Tchefuncte
Lake Maurepas	Lower Pearl
Tickfaw	Bogue Chitto



Key Staff

- Sam Crampton, Dewberry
- Jerri Daniels, Dewberry
- Brad Holleman, Forte & Tablada
- Marc Johnson, FTN

Project Manager/Technical Lead

Stakeholder Engagement Lead

Survey Lead

QC Lead



Schedule

- Received Notice to Proceed on July 13, 2021 for the following HUC's with 22 month schedule:
 - Bayou Sara-Thompson
 - Lake Maurepas
 - Liberty Bayou-Tchefuncte
- Expect Notice to Proceed on Amite HUC in August-September 2021 timeframe
- Expect Series 2 Notice to Proceed late 2021 for remaining HUC's:
 - Tickfaw
 - Tangipahoa
 - Lower Pearl
 - Bogue Chitto



Key Tasks

- Stakeholder Communication and Engagement
- Topographic and Bathymetric Survey
- Hydrometeorology and Hydrography
- Hydrological Model Development
- Hydraulic Model Development
- Meteorological Forcing
- Coastal and Flood Transition Zone
- Report and Quick Guide
- Data Management Plan
- Geodatabase Preparation and Submittal



Data Collection Efforts to Date

- Reached out to all communities within Region 7 over the last 6 to discuss needs and data
- Anticipate that regular updates at this meeting and others will continue throughout the project
- Happy to receive new data at any time
- Available to discuss individual study areas and needs

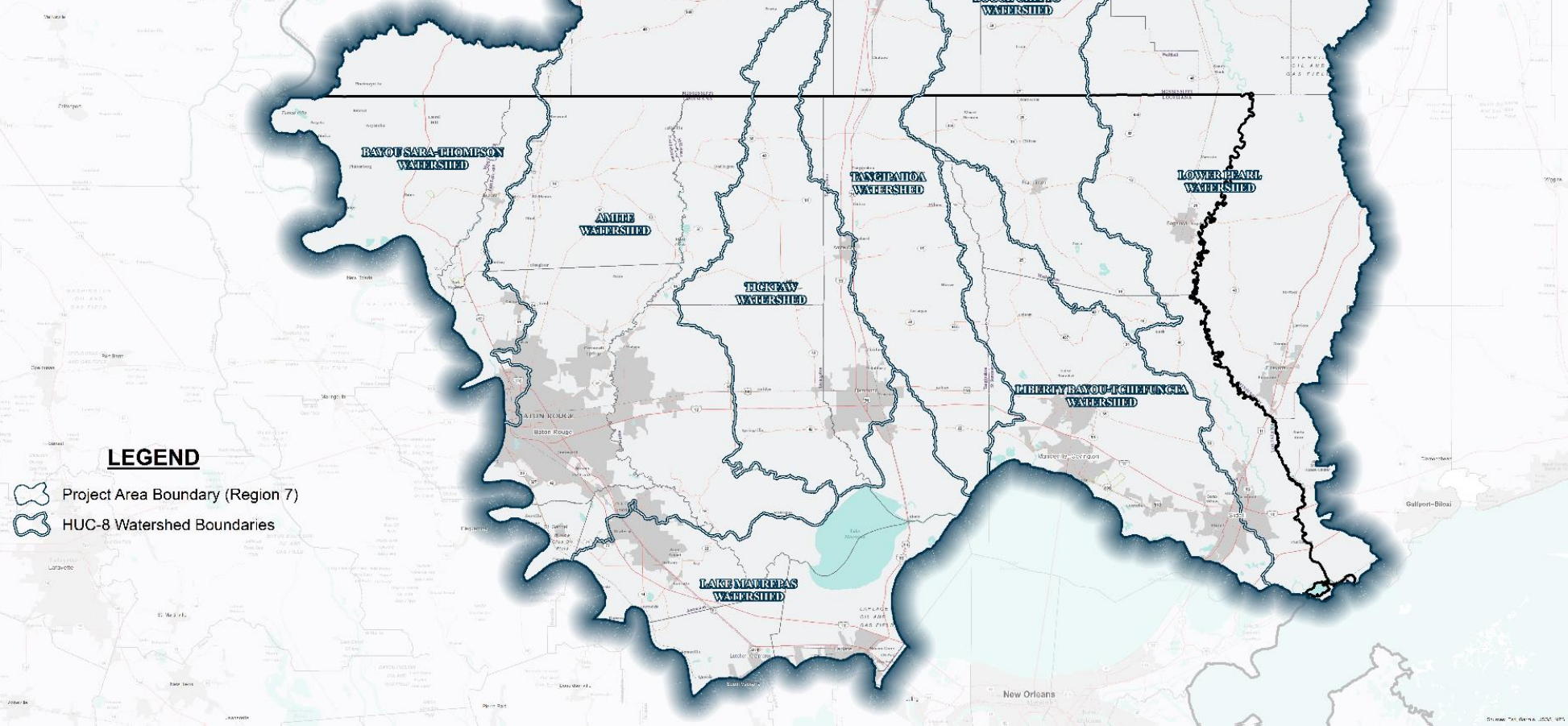
- Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have at any time
 - Sam Crampton, scrampton@dewberry.com
 - Jerri Daniels, jdaniels@dewberry.com



Scoping Process Considerations

- Population density
 - Where is the greatest potential risk?
- Stakeholder engagement
 - What are the community needs?
- Urbanization (historic/projected)
 - Where is it important to identify hazards?
- Geologic Regions
 - What is the general nature of flooding?
- Scope
 - Based on above considerations and others, what detail and modeling approach is needed?

Study Area Overview Region No. 7



1. Amite
 - 568,796 – 45.3%
 2. Liberty Bayou-Tchefuncta
 - 207,339 – 16.5%
 3. Lake Maurepas
 - 156,819 – 12.5%
 4. Tickfaw
 - 104,501 – 8.3%
 5. Bayou Sara-Thompson
 - 78,077 – 6.2%
 6. Lower Pearl
 - 68,249 – 5.4%
 7. Pangipahoa
 - 47,400 – 3.8%
- Legend**
- Project Area Boundary (Region 7)
 - HUC-8 Watershed Boundaries
 - 1978 Urban Land Cover
 - Urban Expansion through 2016
 - Future Growth Potential through 2050 (based on U.S. EPA ICLUS data)
 - Scoping Streams
 - Low
 - Mississippi Streams (Low Detail)
- Value: Amite Model Upgrades**
- High
 - Medium
 - Low
 - Previously Completed Modeling

LEGEND

- Project Area Boundary (Region 7)
- HUC-8 Watershed Boundaries



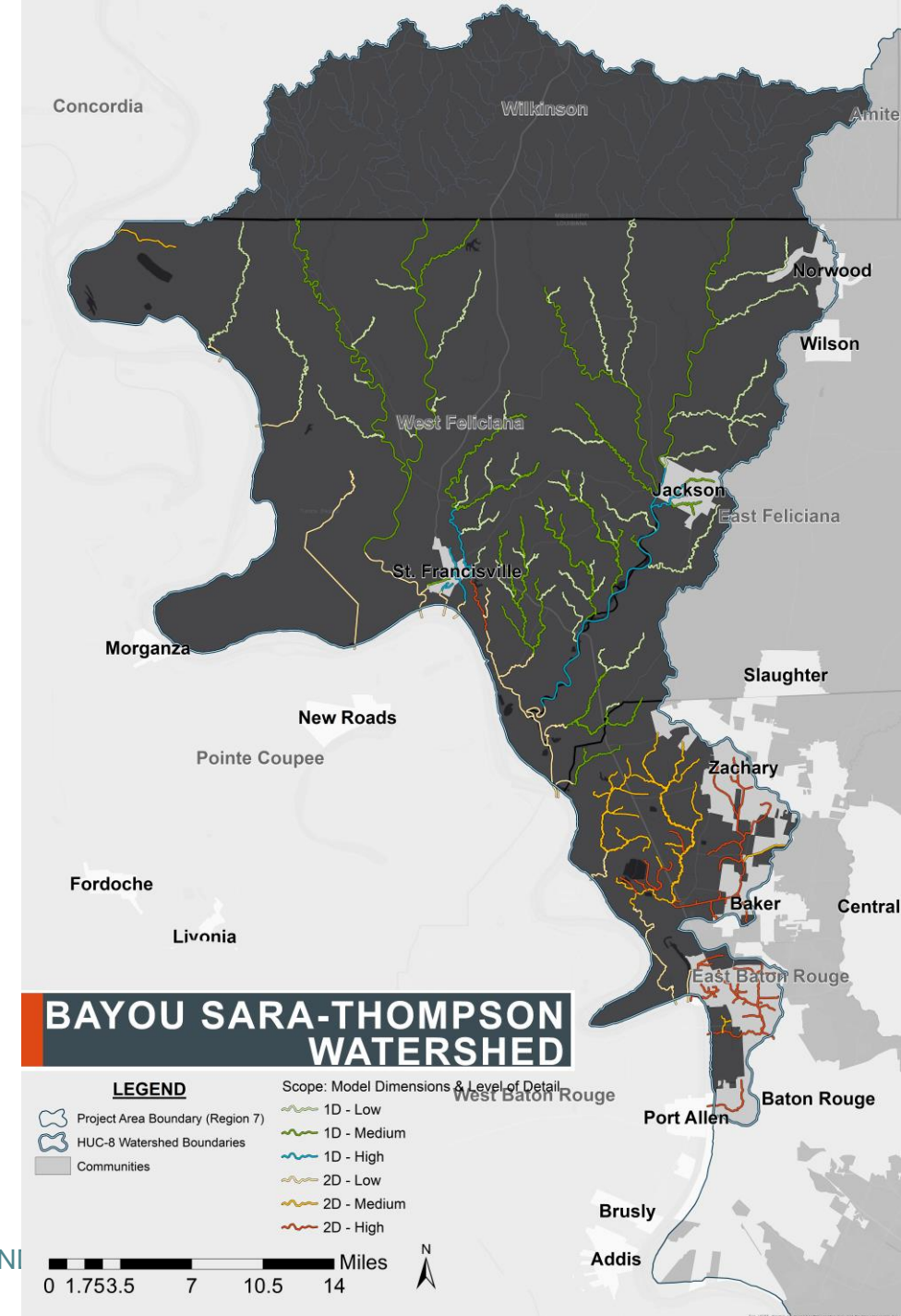
Model Tiers

- High
 - Detailed structure survey and channel survey
 - High resolution 1D and 2D features
- Medium
 - Limited detail survey
 - Structures modeled using limited detail methods
- Low
 - Areas with low flood risk
 - No survey collection
 - Structure modeling limited to structures with major hydraulic impact. Dimensions estimated



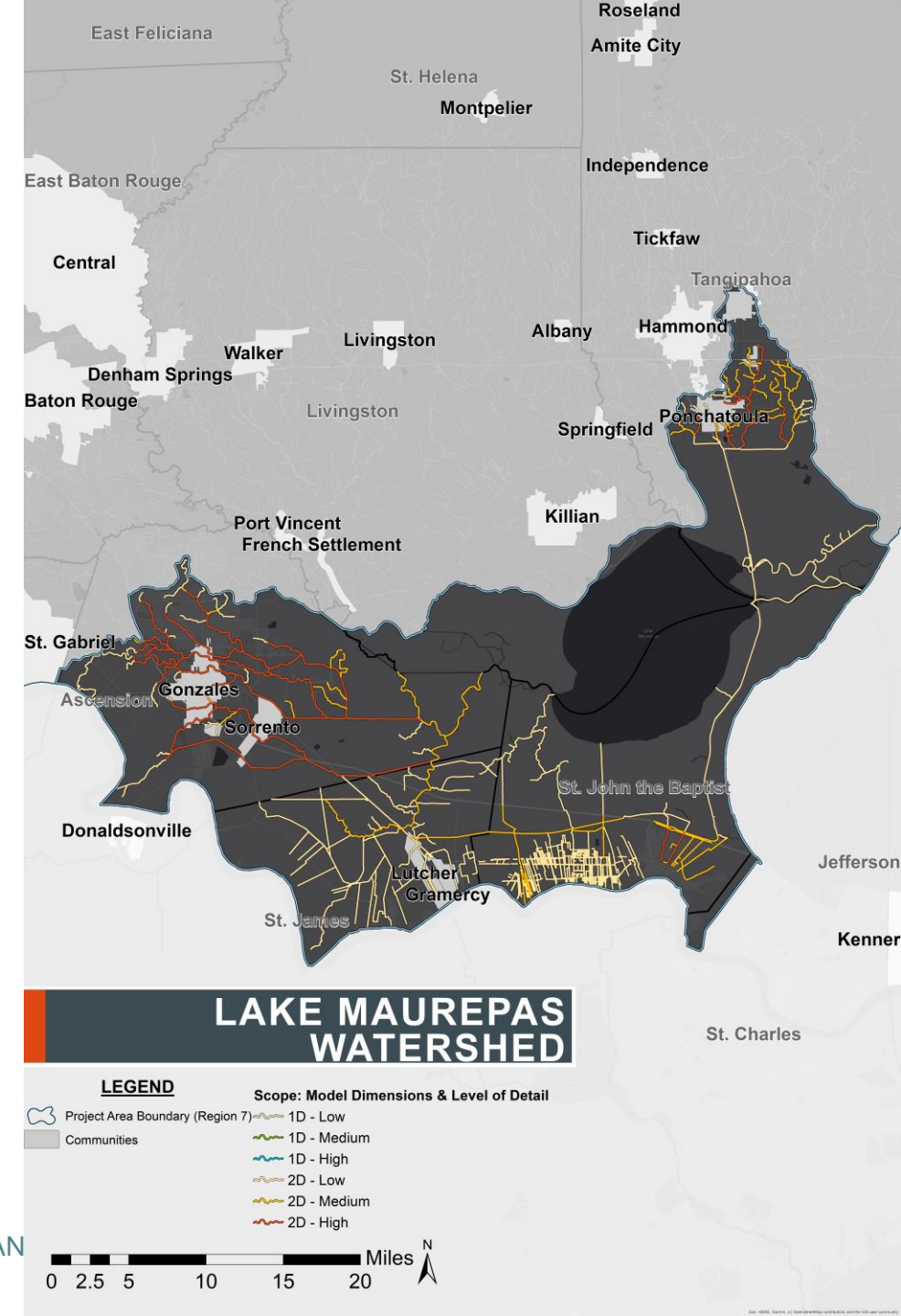
Bayou Sara-Thompson HUC

- High Detail Stream Reaches
 - 26 miles 1D
 - 57 miles 2D
- Medium Detail Stream Reaches
 - 168 miles 1D
 - 56 miles 2D
- Low Detail Stream Reaches
 - 150 miles 1D
 - 50 miles 2D



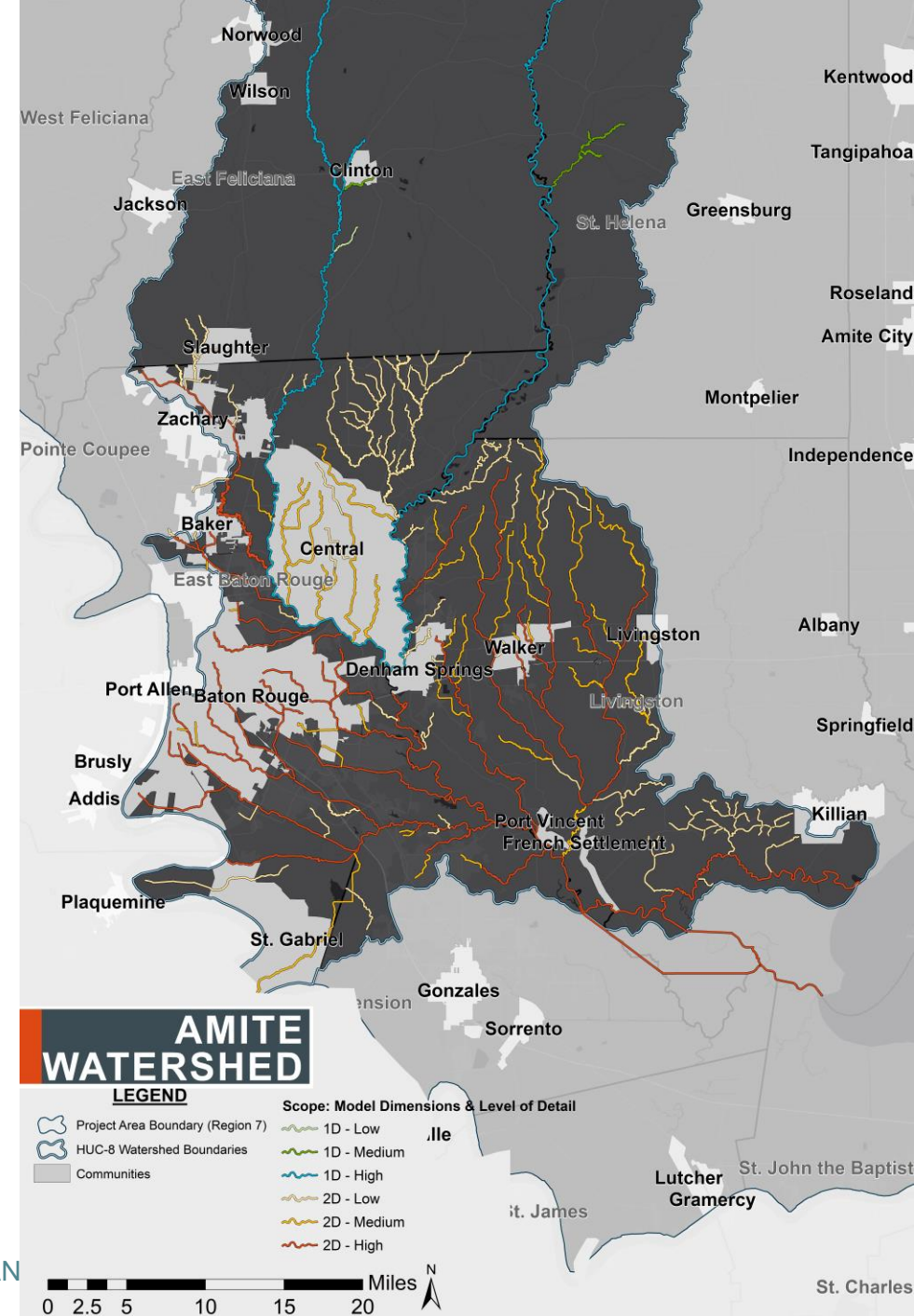
Lake Maurepas HUC

- High Detail Stream Reaches
 - 123 miles 2D
- Medium Detail Stream Reaches
 - 159 miles 2D
- Low Detail Stream Reaches
 - 397 miles 2D



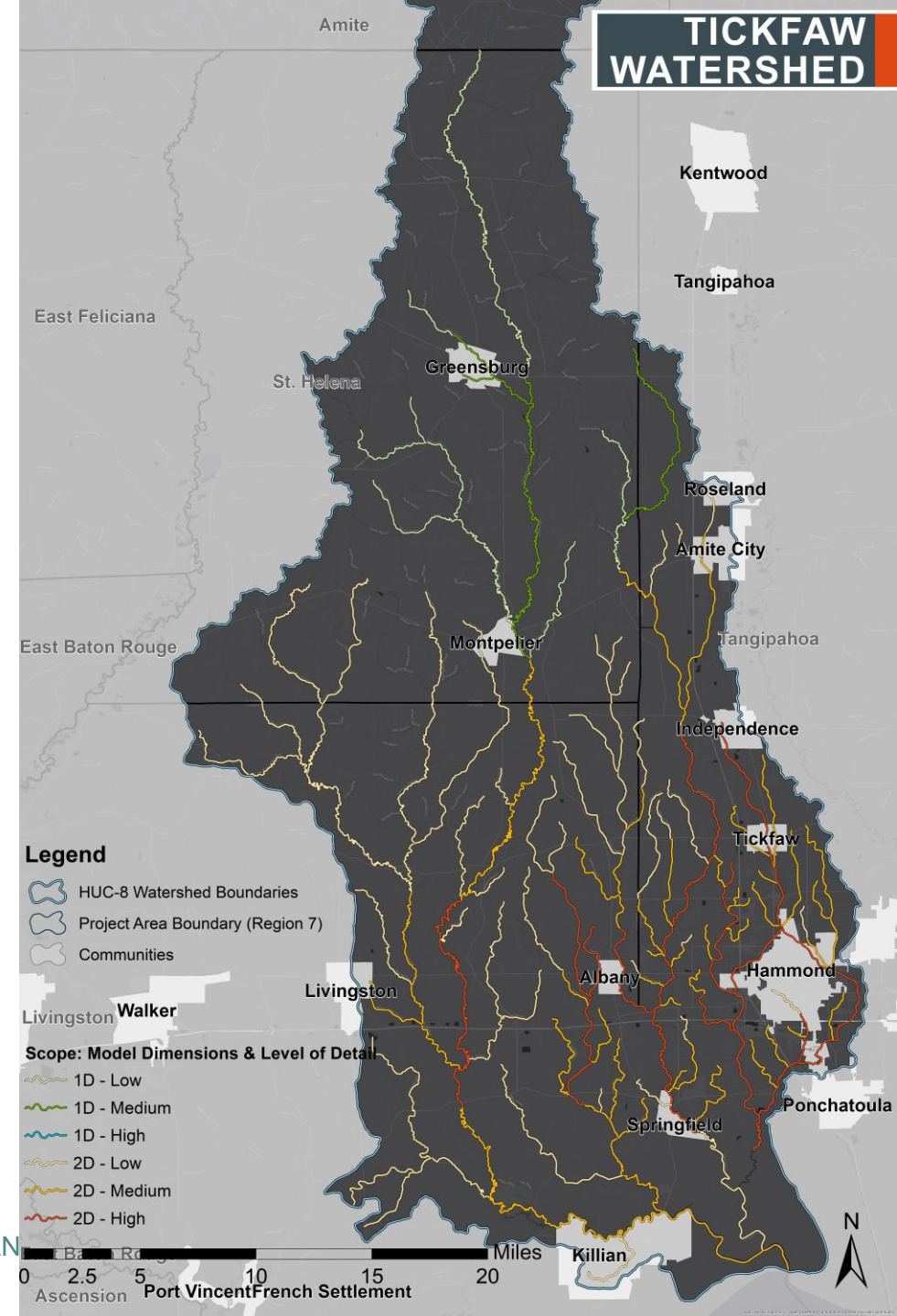
Amite HUC

- Low to Medium Detail 1D
 - 16 stream miles
- Low to Medium Detail 2D
 - 77 stream miles
- Low to High Detail 2D
 - 10 stream miles
- Medium to High Detail 2D
 - 92 stream miles



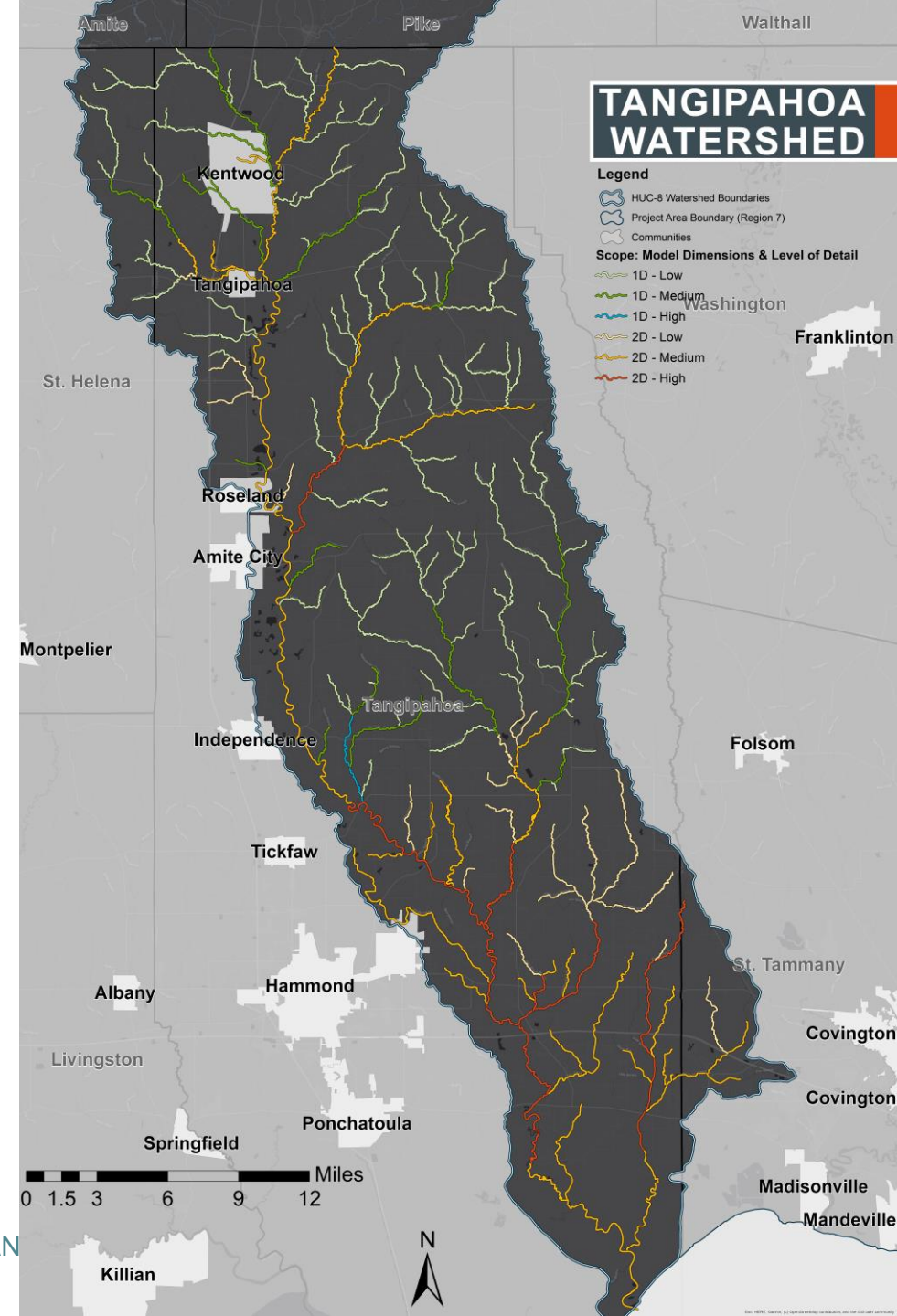
Tickfaw HUC

- High Detail Stream Reaches
 - 96 miles 2D
- Medium Detail Stream Reaches
 - 33 miles 1D
 - 159 miles 2D
- Low Detail Stream Reaches
 - 57 miles 1D
 - 194 miles 2D



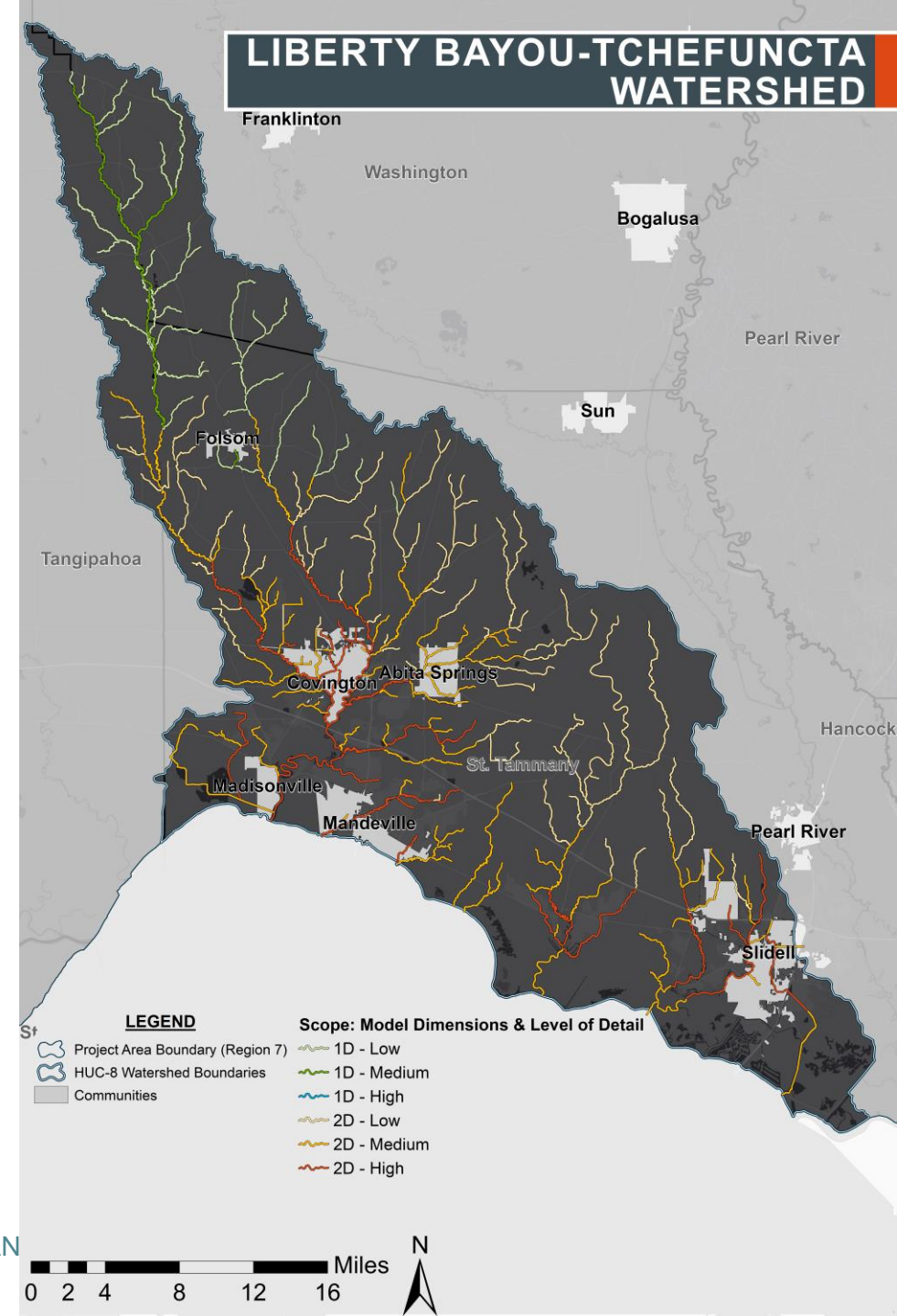
Tangipahoa HUC

- High Detail Stream Reaches
 - 5 miles 1D
 - 54 miles 2D
- Medium Detail Stream Reaches
 - 65 miles 1D
 - 152 miles 2D
- Low Detail Stream Reaches
 - 216 miles 1D
 - 53 miles 2D



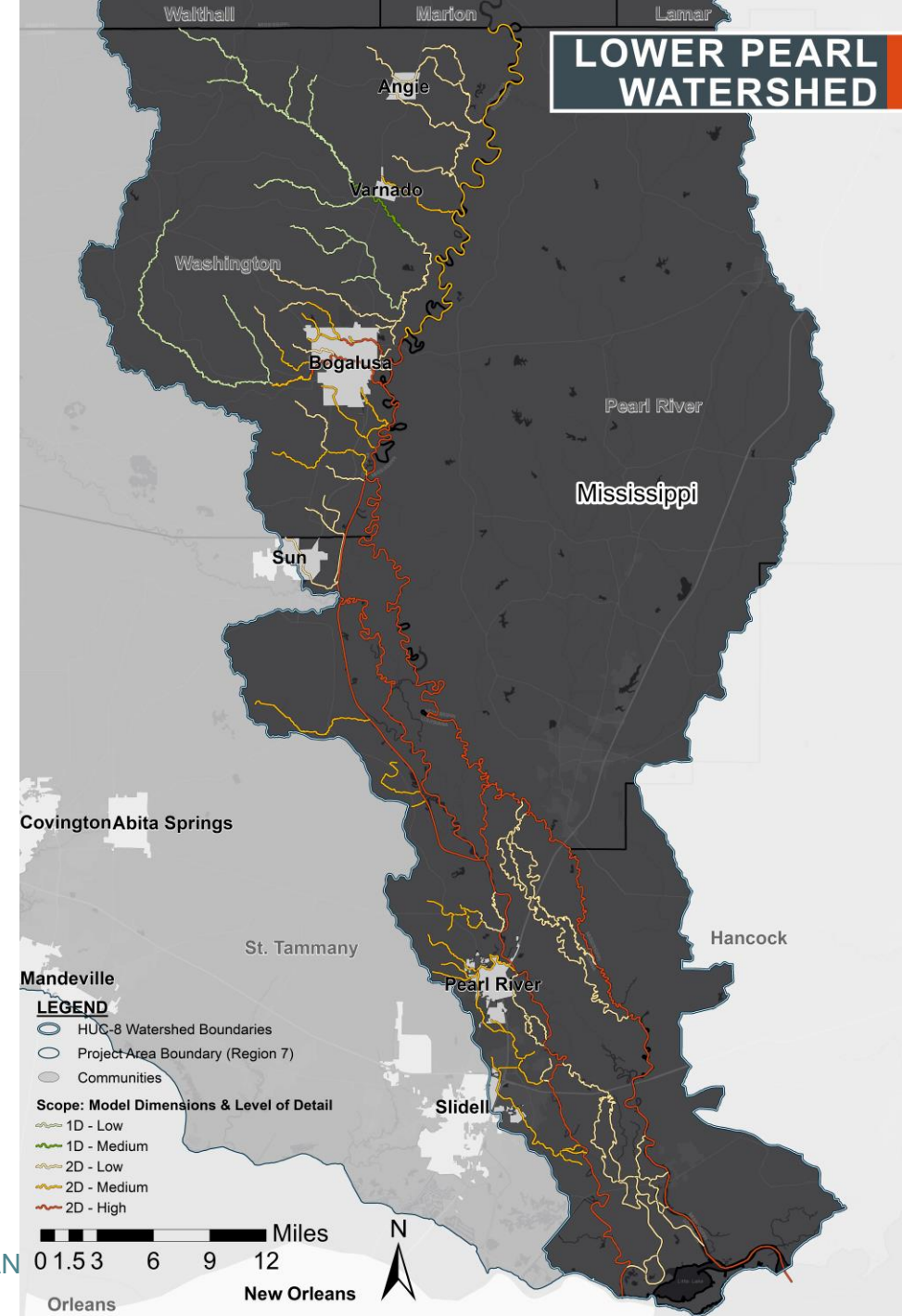
Liberty Bayou-Tchefuncte HUC

- High Detail Stream Reaches
 - 130 miles 2D
- Medium Detail Stream Reaches
 - 34 miles 1D
 - 195 miles 2D
- Low Detail Stream Reaches
 - 102 miles 1D
 - 181 miles 2D



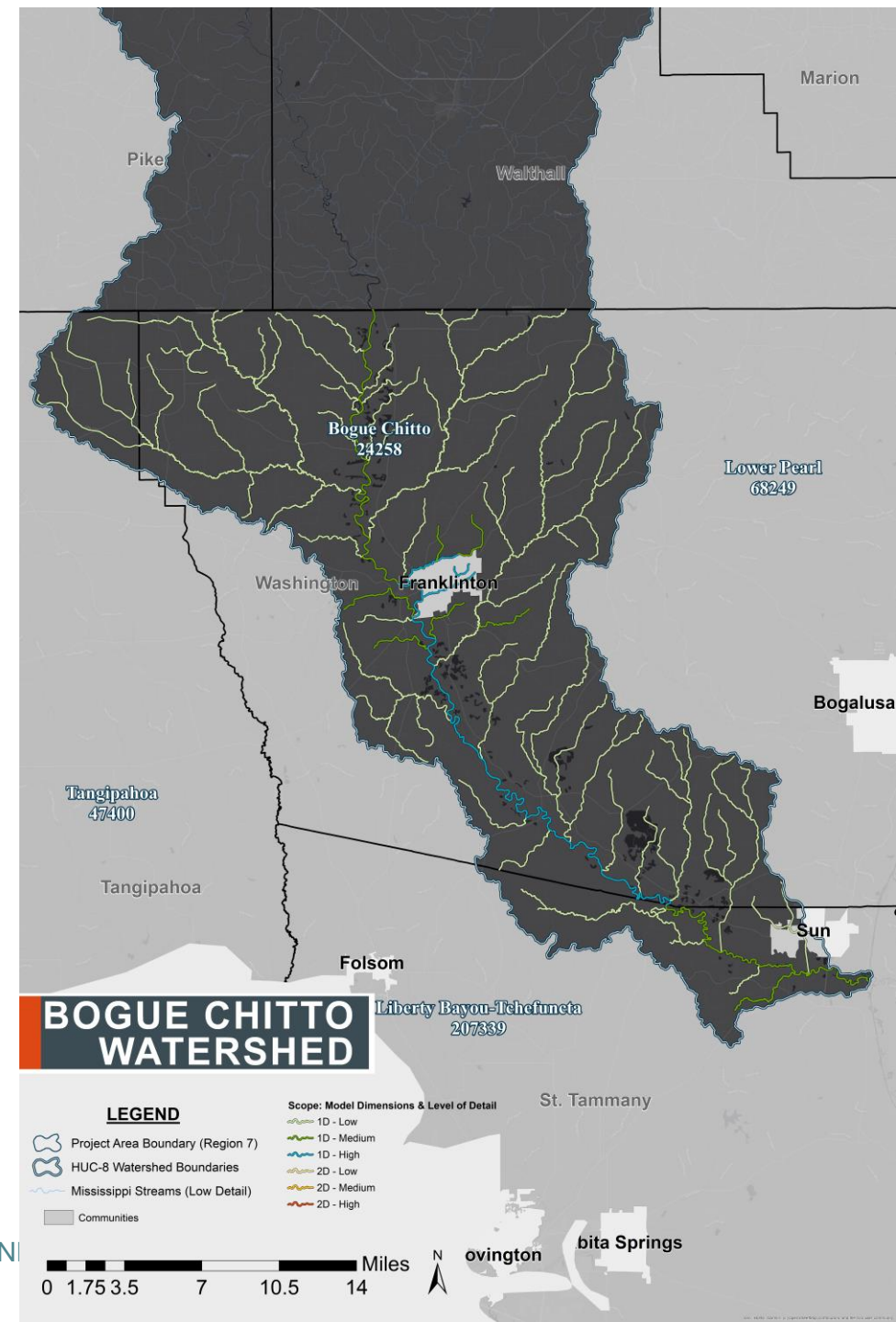
Lower Pearl HUC

- High Detail Stream Reaches
 - 172 miles 2D
- Medium Detail Stream Reaches
 - 5 miles 1D
 - 110 miles 2D
- Low Detail Stream Reaches
 - 72 miles 1D
 - 162 miles 2D



Bogue Chitto HUC 8

- High Detail Stream Reaches
 - 35 stream miles 1D
- Medium Detail Stream Reaches
 - 52 mile 1D
- Low Detail Stream Reaches
 - 345 miles 1D

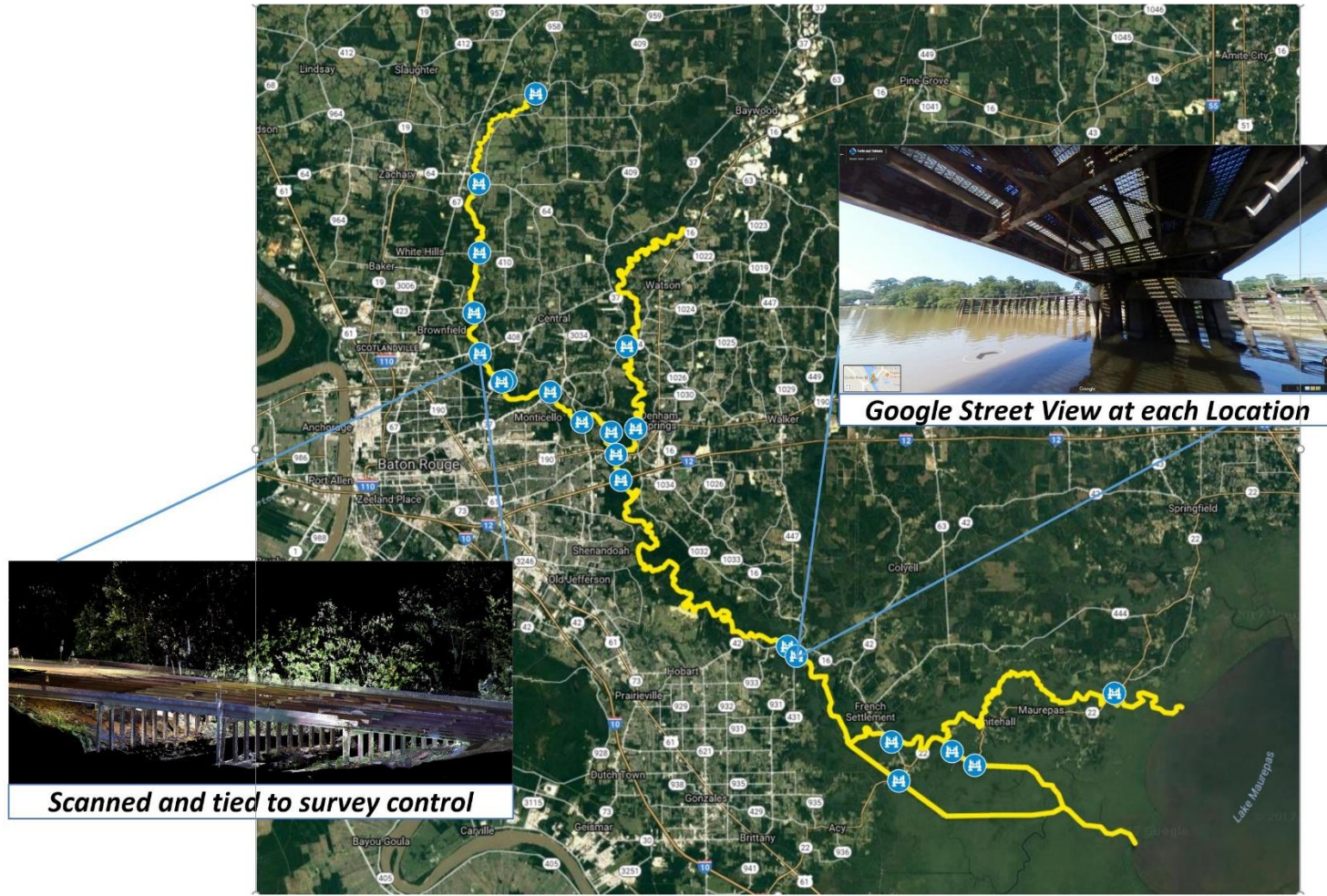


Survey Effort

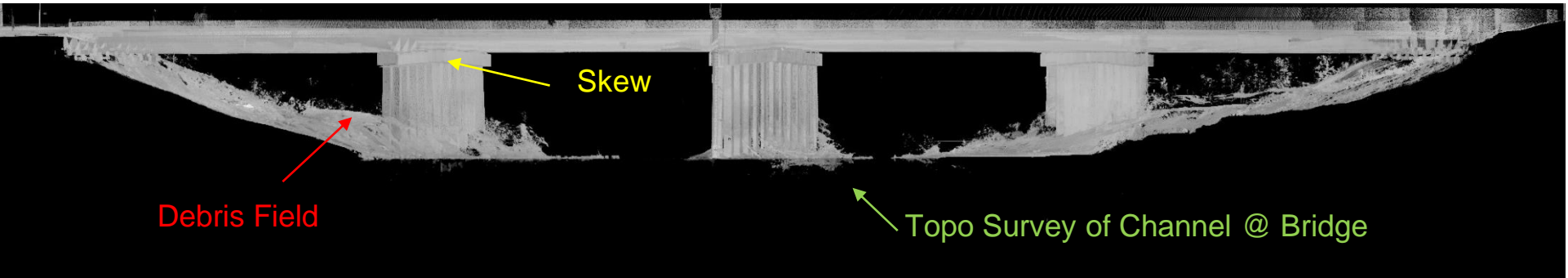
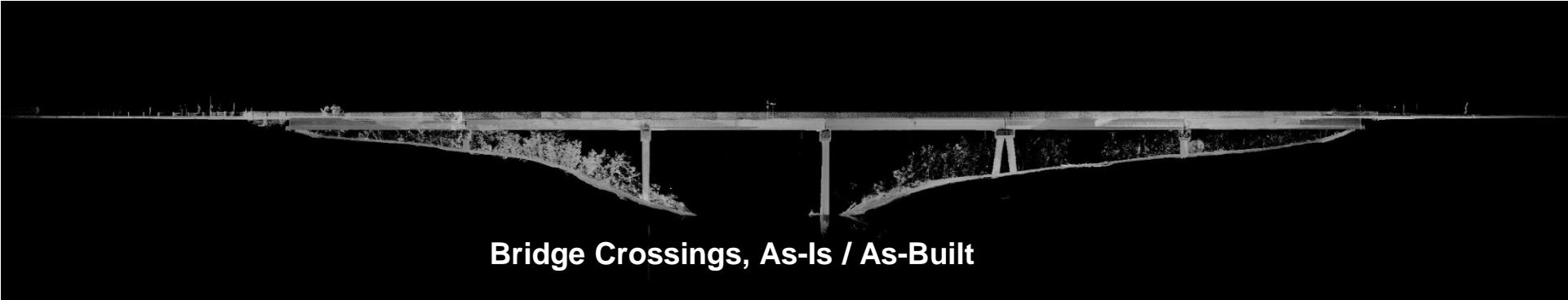
- Survey is underway
 - Expect to see Forte & Tablada crews in the field over the next year!
- Combination of:
 - Bathymetric survey
 - Traditional ground survey
 - Ground based laser scanning
 - Leveraging of existing survey
- Coordinating with existing survey efforts (where known) to avoid duplication



Technical Highlights - Survey Collection

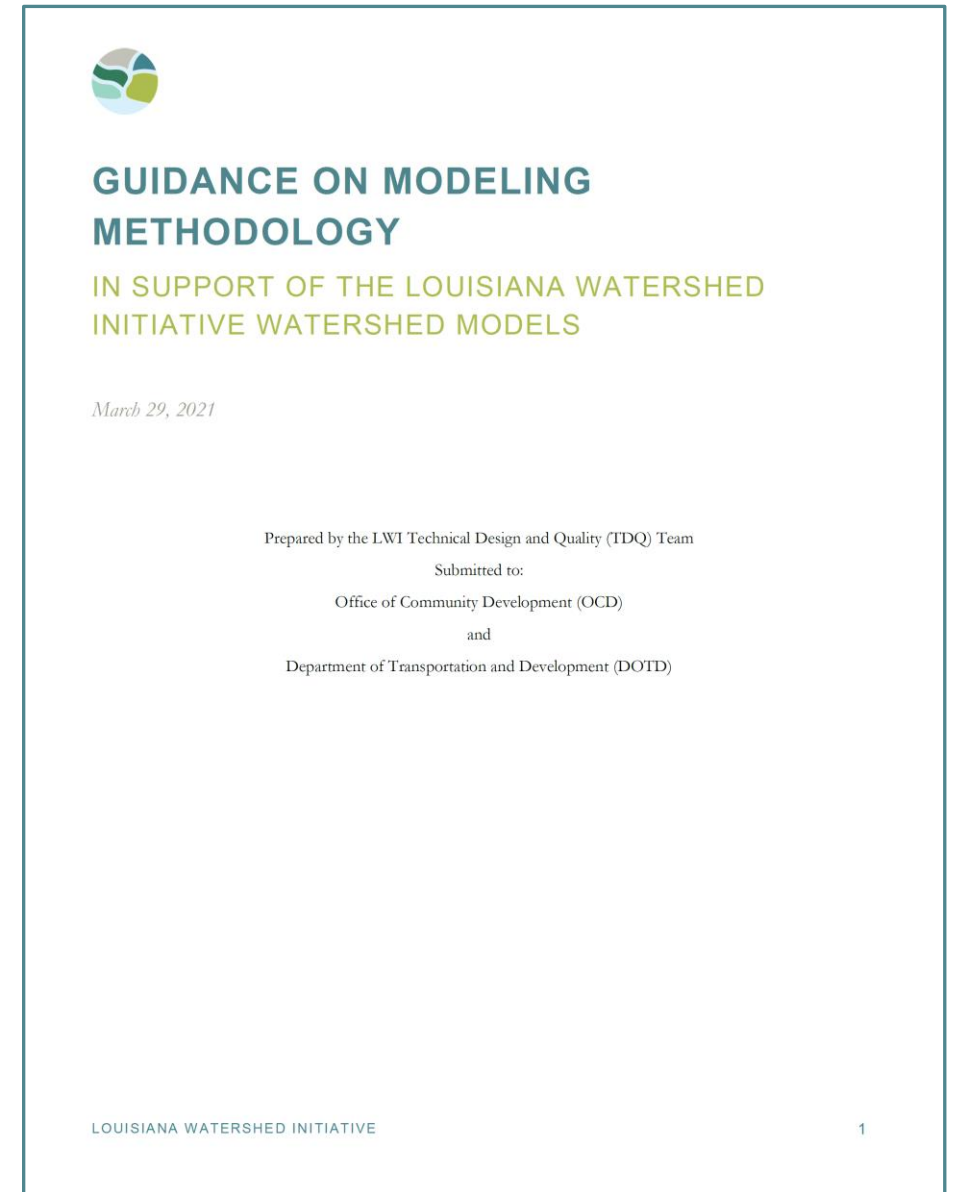


Bridge Scanning



Modeling Guidance

- Models being developed in compliance with the Technical Design and Quality Team Guidance on Modeling Methodology
- Some highlights of guidance include:
 - Primary and value added criteria
 - Modeling methodologies
 - Naming convention for streams and model features using 16 digital alpha-numeric codes



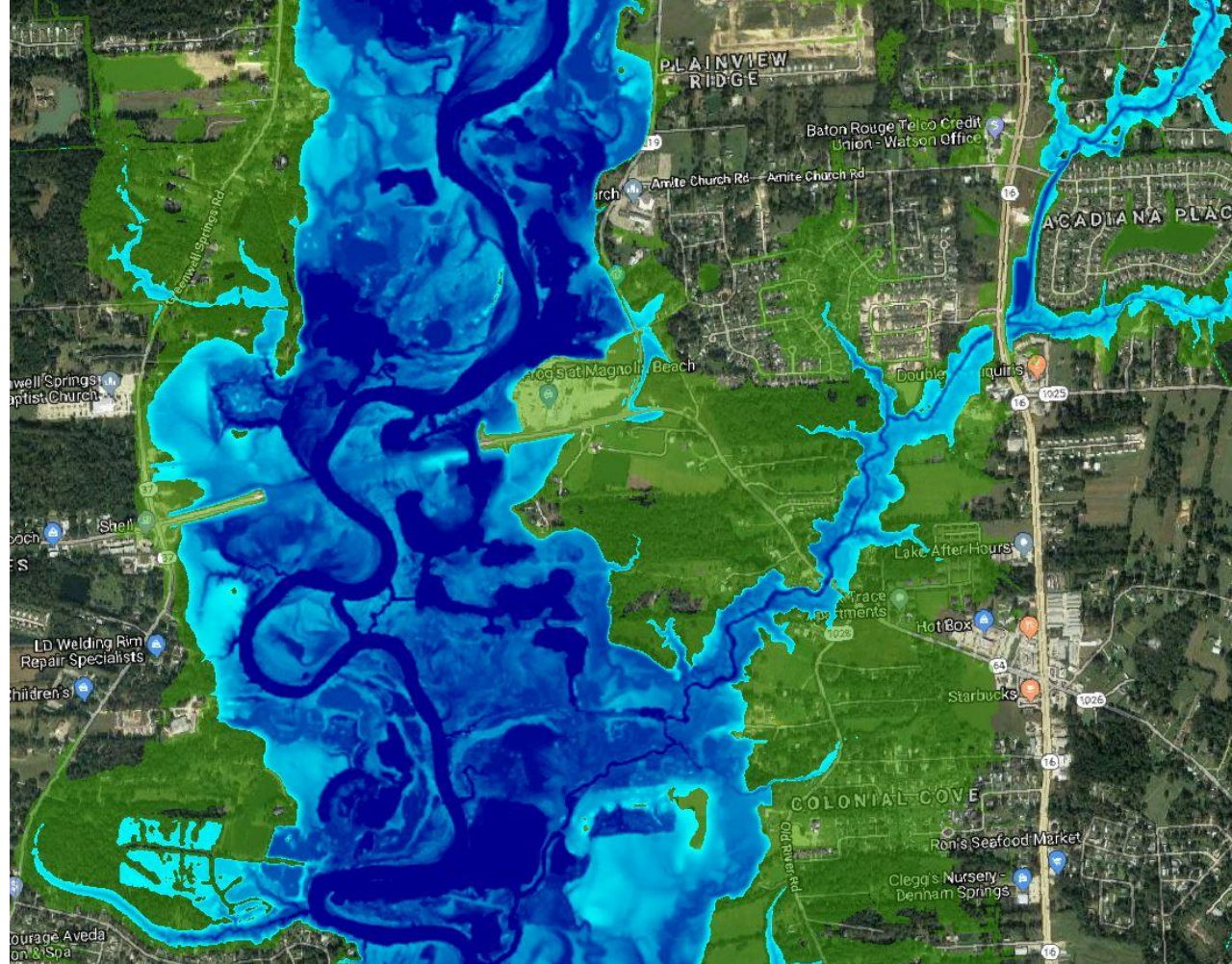
Primary and Value Added Objectives

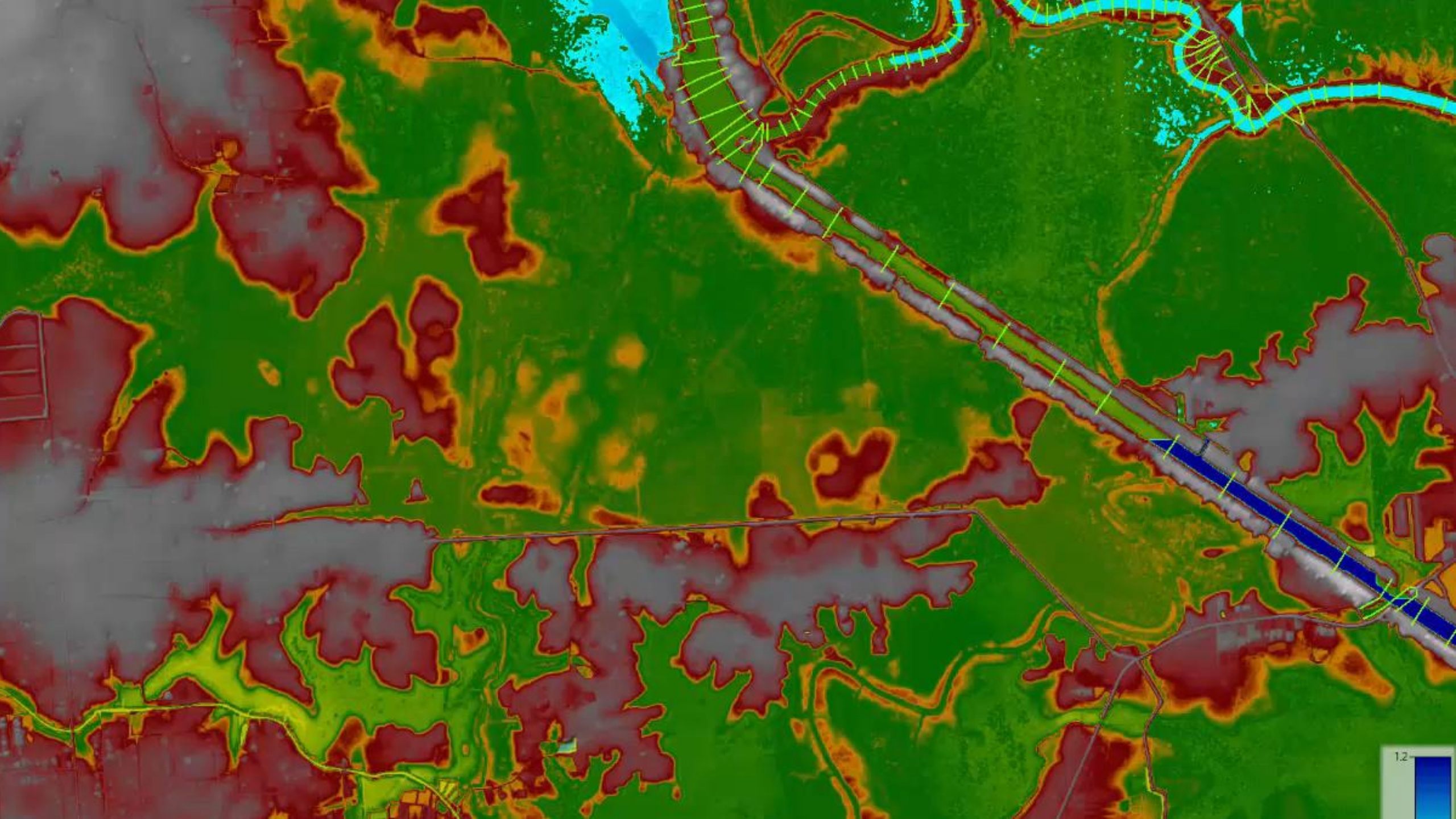
Primary Objectives of LWI Models	Added-Value Objectives of LWI Models
<p>Flood mitigation feasibility studies</p> <p>No adverse impact assessments</p> <p>Consequence and risk assessment</p> <p>Management of future developments and community growth</p> <p>Support evaluation of proposed projects, watershed management strategies and policy development</p>	<p>Inform assessment of habitat suitability and impacts on water quality</p> <p>Inform assessment of ecological consequences (e.g., index of hydrologic alteration (IHAs))</p> <p>Support development and update of FEMA flood insurance rate maps</p> <p>Support future development of flood forecasting warning systems</p>
Model Design Attributes to Meet Primary Objectives	Model Design Attributes to Meet Added-Value Objectives
<p>Tiered resolution approach to accommodate various spatial scales while maintaining computational efficiency</p> <p>Sufficient topographic and bathymetric resolution to capture linkages among drainage channel networks and floodplains</p> <p>Inclusion of key hydraulic structures and road crossings</p> <p>Adequate calibration and validation of models to ensure accuracy and realistic representation of watersheds</p>	<p>Continuous-mode hydrologic setup to allow future ecological assessment and flood forecasting</p> <p>Calibration for multiple-peak events</p>



Modeling Methodologies Highlights

- HEC-HMS hydrologic modeling
 - Deficit and constant loss methods
 - Mod-Clark transform method
- HEC-RAS hydraulic modeling
 - HEC-RAS version 6
 - Combination of 1D and 2D studies
- Calibration and validation event selection
 - Criteria for storm selection (8-9 events)

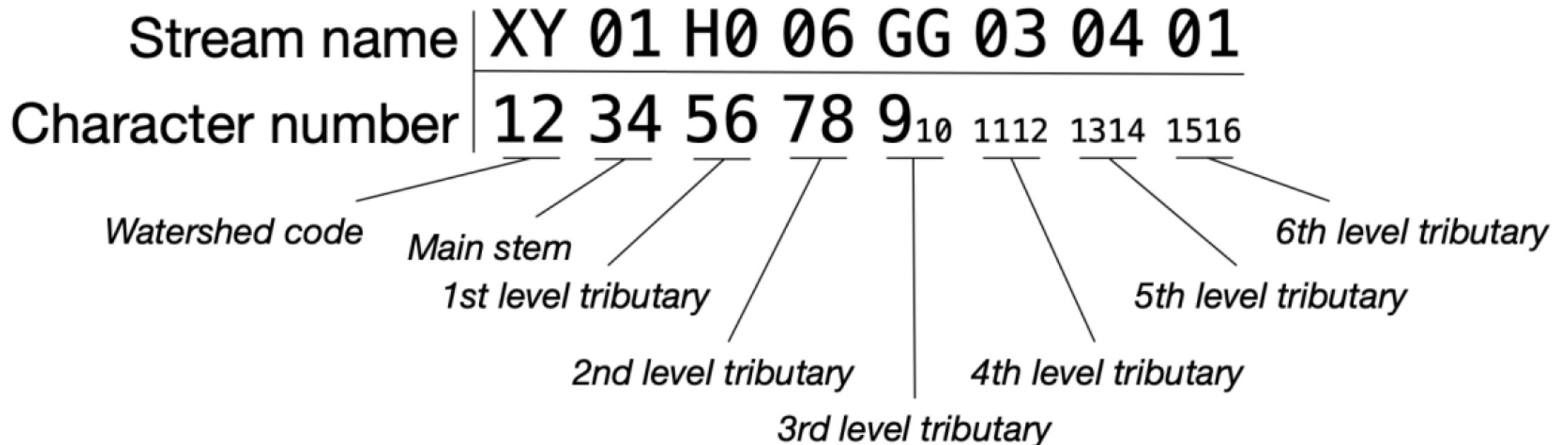




1.2

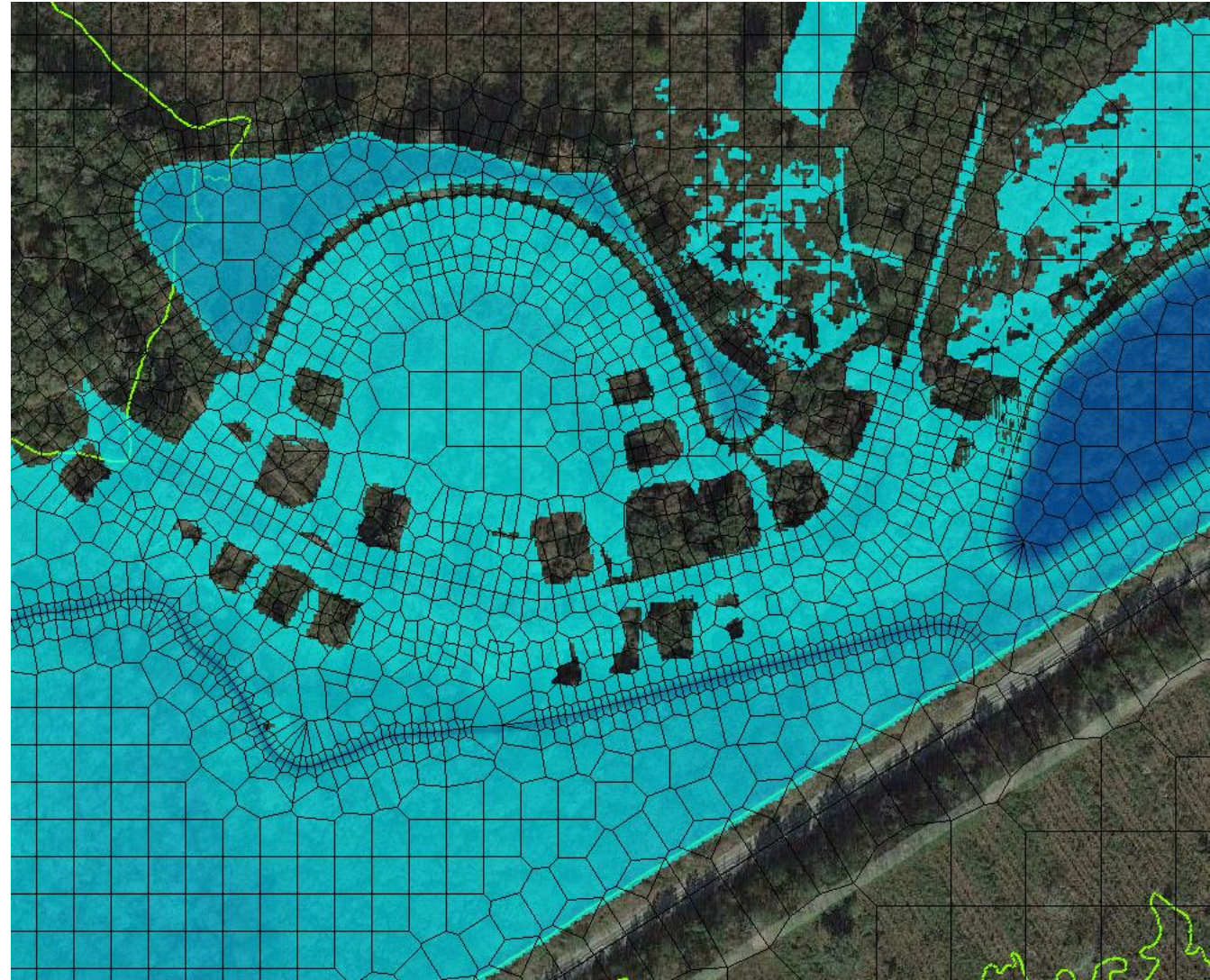
Model Feature Naming Methodology

- Models will not use standard Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) names (ie Amite River, Tchefuncte River). GMM requires 16 digit alphanumeric codes



Model Refinement

- Models will be scalable
 - Users can add detail/refinements
 - Projects can be added and evaluated
- Users can extract portions of model
 - Reduces run time
 - Easier to use
 - Can potentially be merged back



Dewberry Team Contacts

- Sam Crampton – Project Manager/Technical Lead
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- Jerri Daniels – Stakeholder Engagement Lead
 - jdaniels@dewberry.com
- Brad Holleman (Forte & Tablada) – Survey Lead
 - bholleman@forteandtablada.com
- Marc Johnson (FTN) - Independent Quality Control Lead
 - mcj@ftn-assoc.com

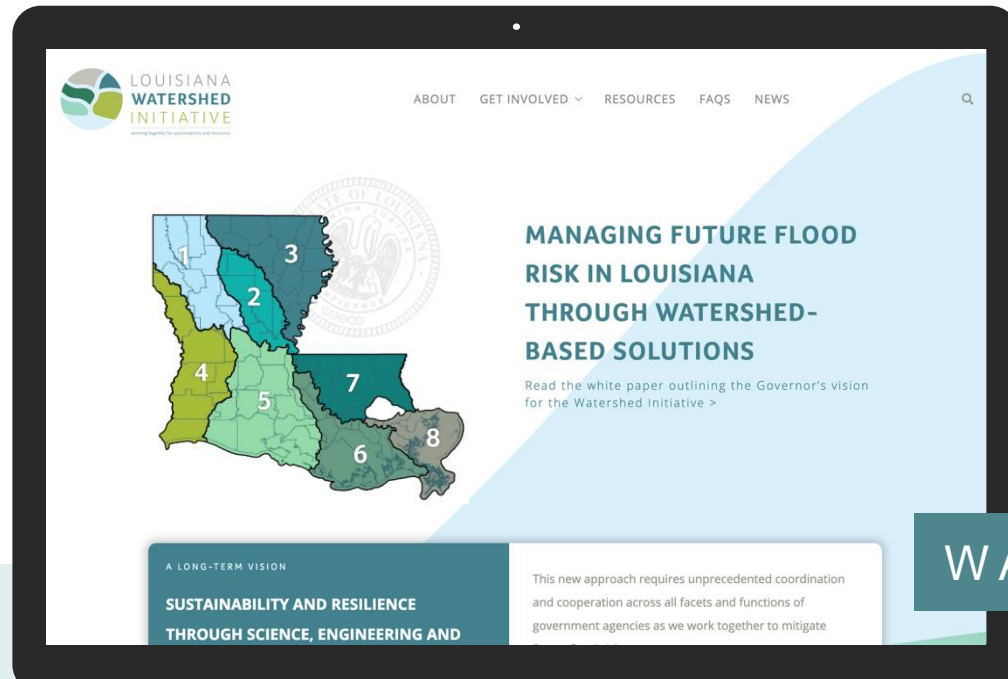


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 WATERSHED@LA.GOV

THANK YOU



Se pondrán a disposición los materiales en idioma español cuando se los solicite. Envíe las solicitudes a watershed@la.gov.

Khi có yêu cầu, tài liệu sẽ được cung cấp bằng tiếng Việt. Vui lòng gửi yêu cầu đến địa chỉ watershed@la.gov.

WATERSHED.LA.GOV



4. Regional project update, vote, and discussion



Regional project selection

Updates

There were discussions with the two highest ranking project applicants.

1. East Baton Rouge Parish
2. Pontchartrain Levee District

Both applicants were able to find additional funds to get to \$6M or below for our threshold.

Project name	Grantee	Region	Cost	Type
Jones Creek Detention Improvements	East Baton Rouge Parish	7	\$9.27 million	Flood storage
Bayou Boyle Retention Areas	Pontchartrain Levee District	7	\$6.08 million	Flood storage



Regional project selection

Vote

- Region 7, in accordance with the regional project selection process for Round 1 determined April 22, 2021, votes to fund the Jones Creek Detention Improvements project for a total of \$6M.

AFFILIATION	VOTE	AFFILIATION	VOTE
Ascension Parish	Yay	St. Tammany Parish	Yay
East Baton Rouge Parish	Yay	Tangipahoa Parish	Yay
East Feliciana		Washington Parish	
Iberville Parish		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	
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		



Round 1

Feedback - start, stop, continue

- Based on the round 1 project application and selection process
- [For people joining virtually](#)

WHAT SHOULD WE START DOING? Some examples below...	WHAT SHOULD WE STOP DOING?	WHAT SHOULD WE CONTINUE DOING?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify & target LMI populations to benefit • Capacity-building support • Access to more information • Consider regional priorities for future rounds • FIND More money • rank by project size • funding for rural and urban areas • posting of the cost benefit ratio as done by the USACE. With an actual number • data driven projects, reduce competition going forward • foster collaboration, not competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inducing competition 	



Round 1

Feedback - start, stop, continue

- Based on the round 1 project application and selection process
- [For people joining virtually](#)

WHAT SHOULD WE START DOING? Some examples below...	WHAT SHOULD WE STOP DOING?	WHAT SHOULD WE CONTINUE DOING?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It might be useful to have separate pots of money for particular types and/or sizes of projects. For example - land acquisition/detention could be one pot, and then regional and local drainage projects could each be separate pots. Maybe a separate pot for innovative or collaborative solutions to regional issues. ++ • different criteria for small and big projects ++ • offering technical support for rural areas • funding for both planning and shovel projects 		



Round 1

Feedback - start, stop, continue

- Based on the round 1 project application and selection process
- [For people joining virtually](#)

WHAT SHOULD WE START DOING? Some examples below...	WHAT SHOULD WE STOP DOING?	WHAT SHOULD WE CONTINUE DOING?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• inconsistent messaging on the front end	



Future rounds

Moving forward - Round 2

- 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
- Round 2 policies and procedures are being reviewed
 - Design support pilot to target applicants that may need supporting information, technical assistance, etc. that could not be provided in a competitive environment





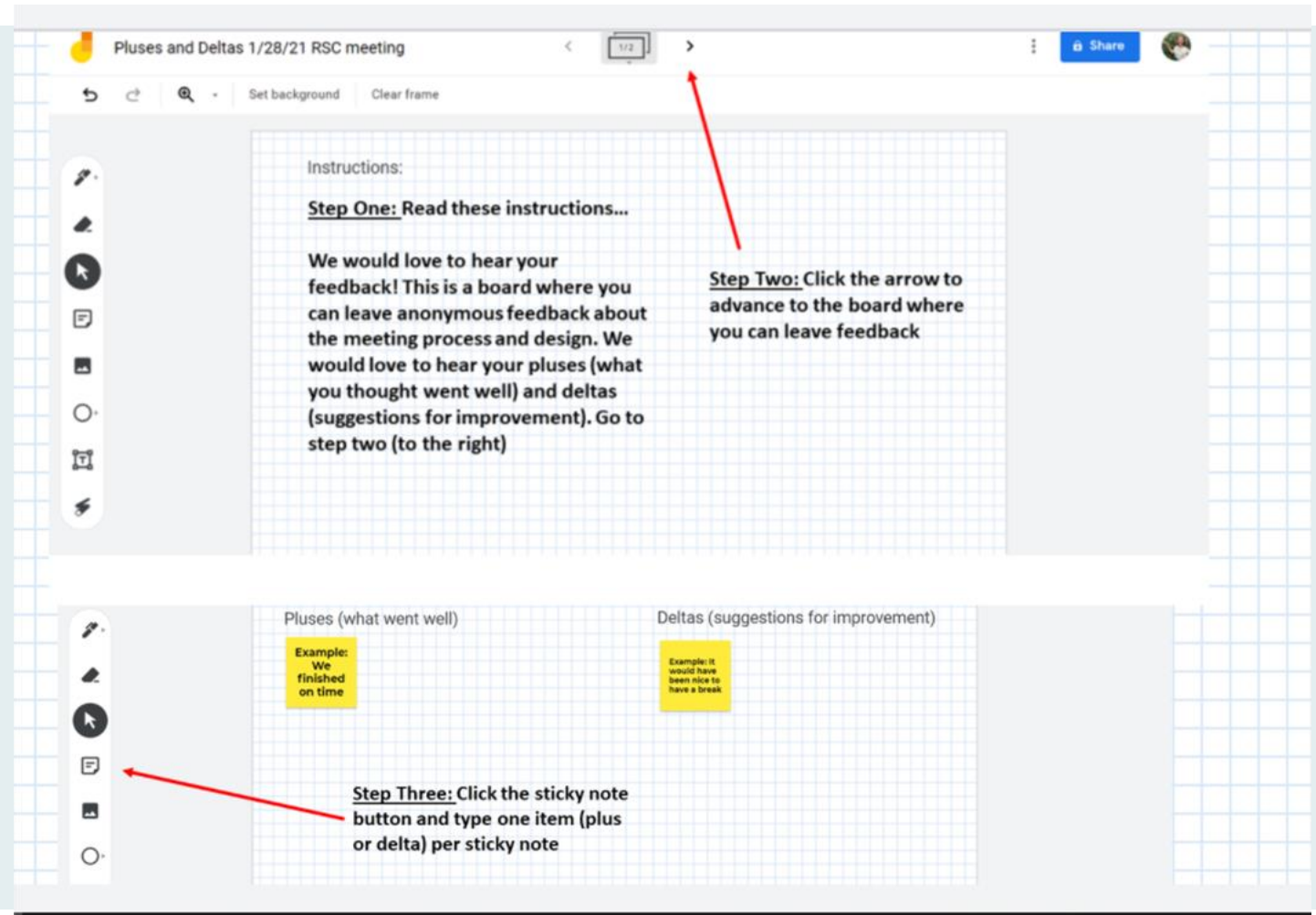
5. Public comment



Feedback from previous meeting

Feedback from last meeting's pluses and deltas board.

None



The screenshot shows a Miro board with the following content:

- 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
 - Step Three:** Click the sticky note button and type one item (plus or delta) per sticky note
- Pluses (what went well):** Example: We finished on time
- Deltas (suggestions for improvement):** 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.

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 June 29 meeting minutes
- Watershed Council meeting - August 5
- Upcoming meetings:
 - August 26 from 1 to 3:30pm - does anyone want to host this?
 - Center for River Studies - BR?
- Action items
- Visit CRPC's website at <https://crpcla.org/> for more information on Region 7
- Visit the LWI website at <https://watershed.la.gov/> for more information on LWI



Contact information

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Drew Ratcliff, Regional Disaster Recovery Manager
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Kim Marousek, AICP, Director of Planning
Kmarousek@crpcla.org



Capital Region Planning Commission

Local Governments Working Together Since 1967

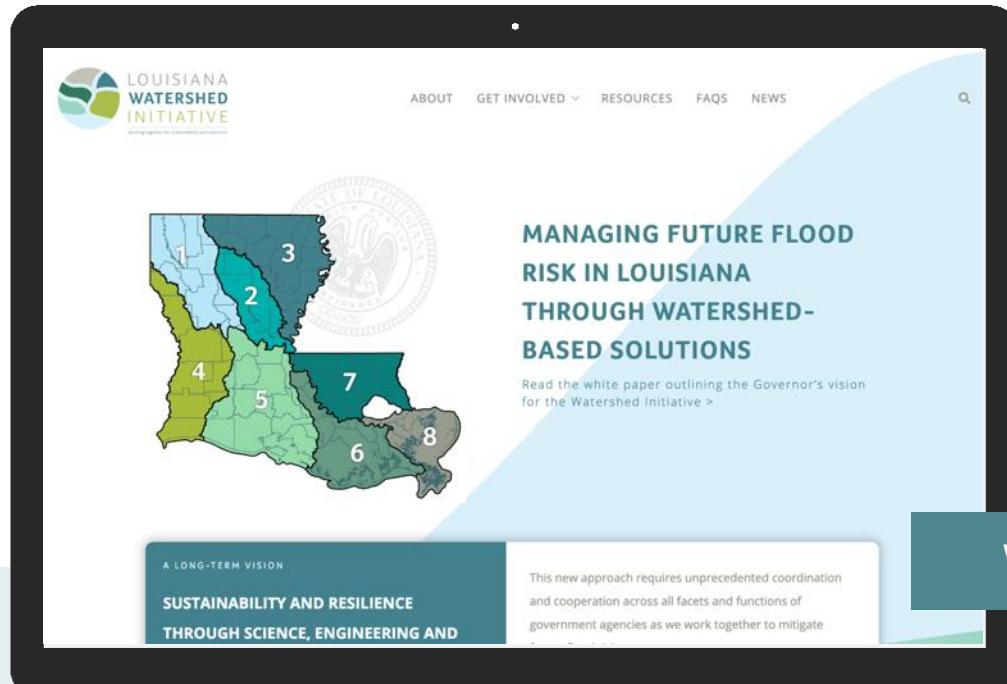


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THANK YOU



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Idea Marina



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

May 25: roadshow and program build out



REGION 7

AUGUST 26 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: What did you want to be when you grew up? Did it work out?

UPDATES

Funding opportunities, capacity building

- Jones Creek Detention Project - Regional Recommendation approved by Watershed Council on August 5th
- Gulf Research Program grant (\$300,000)
 - Linking Coastal-Watershed Resilience to Urban Reinvestment: Build Baton Rouge and Louisiana Watershed Initiative Region 7
- Over \$1M in funds secured, applied for, or in-kind for capacity building to the benefit of Region 7 since Oct. 2020
 - Grants/awards total: \$428,544



- Leveraged capacity building support total: \$215,000
- Pending total: \$412,000
- This wouldn't be possible without our partners- THANK YOU!!

Capacity building and Transition Team

- Georgetown Climate Center Affordable Housing & Flood Risk
 - Workshops in mid-October to focus on initial build out of goals and objectives based on interviews, case studies, additional research. Leveraging in network facilitators through Foundation for Louisiana
- Environmental Finance Centers
 - Region-wide workshop in the fall, working on a survey to inform content. Survey sent out early August. Spring workshop to focus on capacity building based on findings from GCC, EPA, LSU, and other ongoing work
- EPA Resilience Roadmap
 - Updated to be in alignment with ongoing work - GCC + EFC work will inform. Structured decision-making process with a policy/programmatic focus Conferences and other updates

Papers and Other Updates

- Journal of American Planning Association abstract for research paper selected for their Special Issue on “Anti-Racist Futures: Disrupting Racist Planning Practices in Workplaces, Institutions, and Communities”
 - Dr. Thomas Douthat (LSU), Jennifer Li (Georgetown Climate Center), Manohar “Manny” Patole (NYU/Build BR), Rachelle Sanderson (CRPC)
- Dewberry prepared for bi-monthly updates

UPDATES

RSC Members

- None

A QUICK RECAP

2020-2021

- August-October – Vision, values, and goals; Root causes of flooding, opportunities to address challenges
- November-December – What kind of work the region would like to do, Governance models, initial feedback for recommendation
- January-March – Adopt provisional governance recommendation; Discuss Round 1 Regional projects; Discuss potential funding resources
- April-June – Vote on Round 1 regional project selection process; Discuss and adopt governance recommendations
- July – Adopt recommendations for Round 1 regional project

REMINDER

- 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

FEEDBACK ON DRAFT MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURES

REMINDER

Baseline Effort

- Entire RSC, No additional role
- Participate in regularly scheduled RSC activities (meetings and surveys); Provide feedback through those activities that will then be incorporated into documents

Additional Effort

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

Maximum Effort

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

PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- 2020 → gathering feedback on potential member structures (for example, Dec. 15 discussion)
- January to March → Recruit for Transition Team a mix of RSC members, regional governance experts
- April to July → Meet with Transition Team to catch up to speed, identify leads for Bylaws and membership structure (Katie Spidalieri, Thuy Le, Ivy Mathieu); work on draft documents; Bring documents to Transition Team for feedback monthly; finalize documents late July
- Early to mid August → wrap up documents and collect feedback from Transition Team reviewers, others within Region 7 network, internal CRPC staff
- End of August (today) → Present the structures to the RSC for feedback with the goal of identifying one membership structure for our path forward

MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE #1

- 13 voting members (quorum of 7) selected through application process
 - Academic/University Seat (2), Resiliency Seat, Community Representative Seat (1 or 2), Economic Development Seat, Environmental Conservation Seat, Environmental Justice Seat, Health and Social Sector Seat, Indigenous Peoples Seat (1 or 2), Legal Seat, Planning Seat, Water Sector Seat
- 20 non-voting members
 - 13 local government appointees (each parish)
 - 7 partners/experts



- Chair: be the face, preside over meeting; Vice Chair: assist chair; Secretary: adherence to LA public meeting laws
- Focus on equity and inclusion and unique geographic impacts across region
- Both have fluidity and flexibility
- Working groups that supplement decision making
- The by-laws will make room for changes in the future, open for growth and development

MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE #2

- 11 voting members selected through application process
 - Resiliency Seat, Community Representative Seat (1 or 2), Economic Development Seat, Environmental Conservation Seat, Environmental Justice Seat, Health and Social Sector Seat, Housing Seat, Indigenous Peoples Seat (1 or 2), Planning Seat, Water Sector Seat
- 9 non-voting members at local, regional, state, or national level who are collaborating partners within Region 7 and provide expertise. May include parish staffers/elected officials who are selected through a separate application process

DIFFERENCES

Membership Structure #1	Membership Structure #2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 voting members. Member application process for voting members. Selection committee makes determinations. • 20 non-voting members (13 government appointees nominated by Parishes and municipalities, 7 partners/experts) • Non-voting :13 local government representatives are appointed from each Parish. Each local Parish and municipality submit a nomination form and a meeting is called between all who made recommendations to discuss and select one individual • Non-voting :7 regional non-voting partners have a separate application process. Selection committee makes determinations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 voting members, no academic or legal seat • 9 non-voting members (partners/experts) • Member application process for voting members. Selection committee makes determinations. • Non-voting members have a separate application process. Selection committee makes determinations.

WORKING GROUPS

- For different opportunities as needed ie. Increase engagement
- Augment the membership
- We won't be able to foresee every possible need, so this gives the member the authority to set up working groups but does not specify topics ex.
- Help commute to work for benefit of region 7
- Establish need/charge and form a quorum for setting up the work group to give recommendations
- Can meet independently and bring in folks as needed
- Set up as collaborative to address ongoing emerging needs



APPLICATION PROCESS

Voting membership – Critical to ensure:

1. Alignment of skill sets with each position
2. Alignment with regional vision, values, and goals
3. Alignment with LWI mission
4. Diversity and inclusion of applicants
5. Ability to collaborate
6. Identify any potential conflicts of interest and/or issue conflicts with participation on the committee - minimum baseline is Section 42 State Code of Ethics, will be considering COI during application process and while individuals are acting in their roles
 - Conflicts of interest framework
 - Will be a requirement to disclose
 - After seated disclosure on a yearly basis (state code of ethics)
 - Section 42 of state code of ethics
 - The application would be an open call so anyone across the region may apply for a seat.
 - Selection committee for first set of members:
 - 1 staffer from CRPC, 1 staffer from OCD, and 3 RSC members who are nominated and voted on by the group

DISCUSSION

(Comments are not verbatim unless there are quotations around phrases, words, or paragraphs). A recording of the meeting can be viewed here: <https://crpcl.org/watershed-previous-events-archives/2021/8/26/region-7-steering-committee-meeting>

- Larry Bankston: How will be Implemented?
 - Nicolette Jones: If we have enabling legislation will likely be broad; haven't made decision yet; likely it will be broad and details in the regions by-laws.
- Larry Bankston: How do these proposals compare with other regions?
 - Nicolette Jones: Can't really speak to this but some wanted it to be a mix with gov and others; R5 voting was based on percentage of population per parish; But all of it is in flux but we can share what is being done in other regions.
 - Rachele Sanderson: Yes, that would be helpful.
- Ruth Phillips: I have a statement from President Cointment Ascension Parish, "With the 2016 storm being the basis of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, to put money into projects that help prevent catastrophic devastation in our communities from flood waters. No one has more experience and understanding of the watersheds and drainage structures than the local government officials and the representatives sent to represent them. For that very reason, Ascension parish believes that the voting body should be those members of local government who have the direct knowledge of the drainage issues in their region. I would also recommend that the academic, environmental, health, and social sector in planning be the body to provide thoughts, ideas, and input to local government appointees to assist everyone to make better decisions but should not have a vote on these crucial drainage decisions and allocation of critical dollars to fund projects that save lives, property, and the health and safety of the residents of our communities. For these reasons, Ascension Parish will be casting a vote No to this proposal and we will be asking our neighboring parishes to follow suit in region 7. Thank you for your time and consideration."
 - Rachele Sanderson: We are not voting today
- Steve Kistler: these structures do not align with what JBE mentions (sec3 E) --political subdivisions; in this he indicates that political are the strong 3rd leg; current structures ignore and minimize political subdivisions
 - Rachele Sanderson: How are the political subdivisions being removed from the structure?



- Steve Kistler: because they are non-voting member therefore are just an advisor, no longer a decision maker
- Thuy Le: I would like to clarify that they are not excluded as voting member
- Steve Kistler: it is one thing to apply and ask to be a part rather than integral; shouldn't have to ask to be a part
- Ryan Donadieu: I agree with Ruth and Steve; my parish needs to be represented and be a voting body
- Rachelle Sanderson: What do y'all care the most to vote on?
 - Earl Matherne: all of it goes together whether it's Best Practices or projects or funding. Our Parish President will not support any structure that doesn't have local government as voting members
- Bridget Bailey: My parish echos all this; Difference of coalition vs committee and the amount of voting members; if we had voting members of expertise and also parish representation which would mean 26+ voting members; has to be a way to compromise between expertise and representation.
- Ross Liner: Every parish submit candidate for application for each discipline and then one chosen for each parish
- Ryan Donadieu: The parish needs to be able to choose who they want to represent. Doesn't matter which discipline
- Fred Raiford: I can't imagine not having parish representation. Because we are the ones have to deal with the general public. No problem with concept or what we are trying to accomplish. Just Needs to be relooked and restructured. Chatted with Mayor and she wants representation.
- Dietmar Rietschier: If you look at your emails, pg. 2 membership structure #1 is different from the slide, it is presented different from the slide. At a glance, there is something wrong with the selection process, look at all 13 of the voting groups, why does it say and the end (of the description). "climate adaption", "climate related issues", "changing environment", on and on. I am a naturalist, but an approach like this is telling me that this is directed in only one direction- environmental. It is fine if it is one leg of the table. Government is a very strong leg of the table. Should be holistic. Very problematic.
- Major Coleman: They told me the data is driving the decisions-making. Are we getting away from letting the data drive the process. I can't get the data but if have help to get the data. The data should take care of this. Am I missing something?
 - Steve Kistler: this is much bigger than just project. I agree with data driving projects but there are many other functions that will need other than data
 - Bridget Bailey: we have to come up with measurable objectives; got to have actional items. Will need buy-in. The data will help support. That is the sticking point because local gov know what the concerns are and they can identify objectives and the experts can help
- Jon Leo: For the second class representation status of non-voting membership structure- Would it make a difference if the voting membership structure was not to subtract existing voting but to add 13 parish representatives?
 - Ross Liner: I think that would be overly burdensome to have 26 voting members. I think each parish should submit 13 possible candidates for each disciplines.
 - Earl Matherne: Don't want to fit my parish candidates into these categories. Because we bear the responsibility of flooding. There are not going to scream at LWI
 - Tom Stephens: why don't we do CRPC transportation TAC and TPC?
 - Rachell Sanderson: what do guys think of TAC and TPC?
- John Clark: We feel the same as all the other parish. We have a problem. No one is accountable to voters, only the parishes. Selection criteria of parishes? We are in 3 different regions, 5,6, and 7. For us having all 3 watersheds in our parishes it is becoming too burdensome because all the different bylaws and standards.
- Jon Leo: This is extremely useful, thank you. Regardless of who is voting member or not— for Structure #1 is there any role that you feel is useless or would not contribute in a meaningful way.
 - John Clarke: we are the local stakeholders, as dynamic as it is, I'm concerned that we will not be building



- Rachele Sanderson: we are not building projects. We are building capacity
- Katie Spidalieri: The idea is not to supplant parish and municipal authority but support it. Not to take away existing authority. Do you have any ideas solve for both regionalism and your comfort?
 - Ryan Donadieu: just flip the script, non voting should be voting group.
 - Bridget Bailey: agree with Ryan. But maybe 20 members in a voting body? Is there any members not needed? Send out poll to SC about which are most important to them.
 - Ryan Donadieu : No-Only parishes should vote; Only experts should be non-voting
 - Ruth Phillips : I'm worried about experts not having enough skin in the game so I'm willing to look at Bridget Bailey's suggestion
- Dietmar Rietschier : "I believe that this requires a little time. You know we are now so used to the Zoom. We cannot zoom this. We are talking about serious business. And I believe, I don't know how honestly, I wish we had an answer or something. But this requires us to sit around the table maybe and it has to be done, if we can get a representative group, that will look at this and think about it. Everybody is talking and thinking at the same time. We are very spontaneous in our responses. You guys, with all respect, the Watershed Initiative, had all this time to put this together. There should have been some feedback in the process. This has been all of a sudden dumped in our laps and we have to come up with a solution in 5 minutes. I believe that it is wrong and disrespectful honestly."
 - Ross Liner: I disagree with Dietmar's assessment. We are not voting today. We will have time. This is the first meeting of the topic.
 - Nicolette Jones: This is a proposal, a conversation. We not deciding today. Each region is formulating thoughts and we are vetting those
 - Ross Liner: Thank you transitions team
- Larry Bankston: "I would urge everyone to reach out to their legislated delegation. There is no way in the world that what has been proposed to us, would ever even get out of a committee as proposed to. You could consider reversing in schedule 1, the voting and the non voting. You know, indigenous individuals, 1 or 2 on a committee and there's no one from a parish, I've lived here a long time and I'm not aware of any indigenous people in our region."
 - Ross Liner: There is one
 - Larry Bankston: "So we are going to put someone on the committee because of who they are? That doesn't make any sense. We really need to be in the real world and say this is dead on arrival."
 - Earl Matherne: I understand the effort to make changes. My request is to see a 3rd proposal that the parishes be on the voting body and see what the structure, in your format, looks like.
 - Rachele Sanderson: recognizes what just happened. Any changes to statement Larry?
 - Larry Bankston: "Sure, there is no question, there may or may not be indigenous people, but to grant them a specific, dedicated 1 or 2 spots, when there's not a first member of a council or parish on a committee is just Ludacris. That's the point, not the fact that they shouldn't be considered for representation, but to eliminate all the parishes is craziness."
 - but they shouldn't have a seat if parishes don't have a seat
- Thuy Le: what is the anticipated dynamics between parishes?
 - Earl Matherne: Right now I mostly have my objective and I will just casually consult another parish but this structure would be a formal scenario of coming together (besides permitting). This committee should represent cooperation, parishes working together.
 - Thuy Le: we (transition team) thought this would just be a resource. But you all had a different perspective that this would be a vehicle for coordination.
 - Steve Kistler: This exercise has already fostered a communication with boots on the ground and be able to do something. I now have new connections and relationships that will be fostered. Don't marginalize the people who actually have to do the work-you will hurt the relationships
 - Dietmar Rietschier: You are correct. These communities have to be localized to their watershed. They all have separate problems. Need to have sub-watershed committees



VOLUNTEERS FOR TRANSITION TEAM

- Ruth Phillips
- Dietmar Rietschier
- Steve Kistler
- Fred Raiford
- Ryan Donadieu

LWI STATE-WIDE PROGRAM UPDATES

WORKING WITH NATURE – TRAINING SERIES

- September 2021-July 2022
 - Save the Date: [Sept. 15 Webinar series begins](#)
- Nine modules featuring nature-based solutions for flood mitigation
- Focus on design, implementation, financing and maintenance of nature-based solutions
- Educate and build capacity for future LWI funding rounds

MODEL USE, STORAGE, AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

Public Comment Period and Planned Outreach

- August 26 – October 25: 60-day public comment period (Notice distributed via email. For more information, visit watershed.la.gov/modeling-program.)
- August 31: Webinar No. 1
- September 24: Webinar No. 2
- LWI regional steering committee meetings will include updates on the public comment period, including links to webinars and how to submit comments. If requested, the state will provide a full presentation of the webinar at RSC meetings.

ROUND 2: DESIGN SUPPORT PROGRAM

Timeline

- Summer 2021 – Application Assessment
 - State agencies assess unfunded Round 1 projects for consistency with program priorities and level of technical assistance required.
- Fall 2021 – Design Support & Technical Assistance
 - State contacts applicants. In coordination with regional staff, state agencies provide technical assistance and design support to applicants.
 - Applicants update project designs or address issues.
- Winter 2021 – Project Announcements
 - Final projects are announced and awarded funding



REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING: PHASE II

Summary and Next Steps:

- Regions are building momentum.
- Phase 1 funds will be expended by April 2022 (eight months).
- Without Phase 2 funding, staff reductions and loss of capacity are likely.
- Long-term regional watershed management entities (or coalitions) rely on Phase 2.
- Action Plan includes Watershed Policy, Planning and Local Capacity Assistance program.

Recommendation: a commitment of \$800,000 per region (\$6.4 million total) for Phase 2, to be expended by December 2026 (four-year grant, \$200,000 per year). For more information, visit <https://www.watershed.la.gov/rcbg-program>

PUBLIC COMMENT + REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MEETING CLOSEOUT

- Upcoming meetings: September 28, 2021 from 1:00-3:30pm
- Reminder – Ethics Certification
- Tropical Depression 9 – be safe
- Action Items

ADOPTION OF JULY 22 MEETING MINUTES

Ross Liner called for motion.

Ronny Carter motioned.

Steve Kistler seconded.

No objections, motion passed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ross Liner called for motion.

Earl Matherne motioned.

Bridget Bailey seconded.

No objections, motion passed.



RESOURCES SHARED DURING THE MEETING

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MEETING CHAT

00:30:53 Ryan Donadieu: Ryan Donadieu - St. James Parish

00:31:25 Rene Pastorek: Rene Pastorek - St. John Parish

00:31:32 Ruth Phillips: Ruth Phillips, Chief of Staff - Ascension Parish

00:31:35 kim marousek: Kim Marousek, CRPC

00:31:42 Katie Spidalieri: Katie Spidalieri, Georgetown Climate Center (D.C.)

00:31:44 Ivy Mathieu: Ivy Mathieu, St. John Coastal Advisory Committee

00:31:55 Tara Lambeth: Tara Lambeth, St. John Parish

00:32:03 Gary Mego: Gary Mego - West Feliciana Parish

00:32:17 Thuy Le: Thuy Le - Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy

00:32:24 Jenny Schexnayder: Jenny Schexnayder, Nicholls State University Office of Coastal Support

00:33:06 Honora Buras: Honora Buras, CPRA and Ascension citizen

00:33:07 Jonathan Leo: Jonathan Leo - Environmental Attorney and Consultant; member of transition team

00:33:09 Chuck Berger: Chuck Berger, LDEQ

00:35:47 Earl Matherne: Earl Matherne, St. Charles Parish

00:39:54 Larry Bankston: Larry Bankston Amite River Basin Commission.

00:40:12 Ruth Phillips: I think you missed Iberville

00:43:36 Honora Buras: Astronaut or stewardess. D

00:44:01 Karen Zito: Biological engineer

00:44:21 Katie Spidalieri: Wanted to be a lawyer and am a lawyer ;)

00:44:33 Nicolette Jones: I wanted to be an architect - I became a city planner. I think there's a Seinfeld episode about that

00:44:36 Jonathan Leo: I wanted to be a major league baseball player. After Little League, I decided I'd be better as a major league manager. Neither of those worked out...and I'm a completely fulfilled baseball fan who's also an environmental lawyer and choral singer.

00:45:09 Earl Matherne: Fishing Guide, and I haven't given that up yet

00:46:38 Thuy Le: I had very lofty ambitions. Barista

00:57:52 John Clark: John Clark, Iberville Parish jclark@ibervilleparish.com, Good afternoon everyone.

01:01:11 Rachele "ray-chel" Sanderson (she/her): <https://crpcla.org/watershed-get-involved-upcoming-events/2021/8/26/region-7-steering-committee-meeting>

01:09:35 Rachele "ray-chel" Sanderson (she/her): My oars are ready!

01:24:19 Larry Bankston: How will this be implemented? Governor Executive Order or Legislation?

01:25:50 Rachele "ray-chel" Sanderson (she/her): Thanks, Larry. We'll get to this question in just a few minutes. I'll look to our colleagues at OCD to help answer this as well

01:26:09 Ruth Phillips: I have a statement from President Cointment Ascension Parish



01:26:13Larry Bankston: How do these proposals compare with other regions?

01:28:00Ryan Donadieu: Think we should discuss some of the opinions coming in. St. James, like others, may feel modifications or a different direction is needed.

01:28:36Rachelle "ray-chel" Sanderson (she/her): Hey everyone, we're almost through the slides and we'll be opening up for discussion and feedback in just a few minutes

01:29:31Ealr Matherne: I also have a statement from our parish president

01:30:22Nicolette Jones: @Larry, membership structure can be outlined in enabling legislation as well as detailed in bylaws. All of the RSCs provided broad recommendations on the composition of the coalitions and there was some variation among regions (public official vs. private citizen representation). We expect the regions to detail their membership composition and screening/application process in their draft bylaws.

01:36:55Larry Bankston: the legislature will require specific listing of members and how they will be selected. They will not accept broad flexibility.

01:44:23Larry Bankston: We join in Ascension comments. I think you need to rethink Structure #1. Local government and legislature may be supportive of reversing the voting and non-voting bodies.

01:56:27Larry Bankston: All of this is contingent on what the legislation would authorized. This proposal would not get out of committee.

01:58:46Larry Bankston: this proposal is way beyond selection of projects. Does anyone want an unelected committee to decide or make recommendation that may bind your parish?

02:02:38Thuy Le: Agreed. They're not losing any authority. If anything, this body will likely be only giving recommendations.

02:03:07Thuy Le: I wonder if they think that the body will be authorized to give orders to the parish. Highly doubt that the legislature will allow that

02:06:26Ryan Donadieu: As a Regional Watershed, we should ensure that each Parish is represented in the structure. In the proposed membership structures, parishes could possibly be left without representation on the voting membership. Each Parish should be represented as having a voting member, not particularly a staffer, but an individual possibly appointed by each Parish President and ratified by their governing legislative body. The people of the Parish vote for their representation, the Parish President and their Legislative Body. Anyone appointed by the Parish President and the Legislative Body would then basically be a representative appointed by the People of the Parish. This would be the only way to ensure a true Regional Representation with each Parish being guaranteed a voice. The non-voting members would be by application and could be used as technical or professional experience. Ultimately, each Parish should appoint their own representation.

02:17:55Ruth Phillips: For an in person meeting Ascension Parish can offer our large banquet facility at Lamar Dixon - no charge of course.

02:27:19Rene Pastorek: It is a lot easier to move recommendations into concrete action or policy if a committee of elected representatives from other parishes agreed upon it than if a committee of unknown experts did.

02:32:44Ryan Donadieu: Ryan Donadieu with St. James

02:37:19Ronny Carter: We will get this committee thing right...

02:38:25Ronny Carter: Just keep voicing your opinons

02:41:57Rachelle "ray-chel" Sanderson (she/her):

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02:45:55Ruth Phillips: Great job and discussions! Thanks for everyone's hard work so far.

02:45:59Tara Lambeth: Thanks all

DRAFT

LWI Region 7 RSC Meeting

August 26, 2021

RACHELLE SANDERSON, RACHELLE TRAHAN CRPC

NICOLETTE JONES, BRADLEY SPIEGEL, LWI

VICTORIA NGUYEN, CRPC AND LSU

RONNY CARTER, RSC & TRANSITION TEAM

TARA LAMBETH, RSC & TRANSITION TEAM

IVY MATHIEU, RSC & TRANSITION TEAM

THUY LE, CHRIS DALBOM, MARK DAVIS, TWLP, TRANSITION TEAM

JON LEO, TRANSITION TEAM

KATIE SPIDALIERI, GCC, TRANSITION TEAM

CLYDE VERDIN, SPEARS GROUP



LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

working together for sustainability and resilience



AGENDA

1. Introductions and meeting logistics
2. Past meetings recap, reminders, updates
3. Feedback on draft membership structures
4. LWI state-wide program updates
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 Stephanie Bruning	St. Charles Parish
Major Coleman and/or Jeremy Williams	St. Helena Parish
Ryan Donadieu and/or Ryan Larousse	St. James Parish
Tara Lambeth and/or Rene Pastorek	St. John the Baptist Parish
Ross Liner and/or Jay Watson	St. Tammany Parish
Bridget Bailey and/or Melissa Cowart	Tangipahoa Parish
Bobbi Jo Breland and/or Alex Sumrall	Washington Parish
Gary Mego and/or Emily Cobb	West Feliciana Parish
Dietmar Rietschier and/or Larry Bankston	Amite River Basin Commission
Karen Zito and/or Diane Baum	Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge
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.

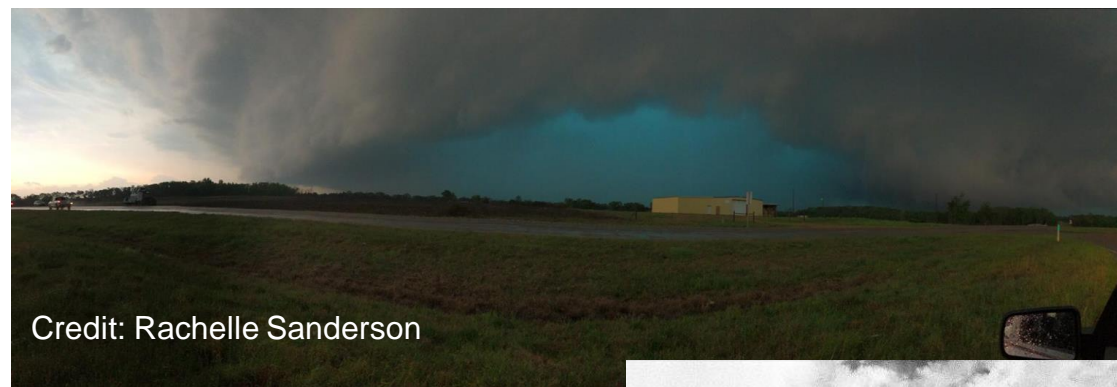


Thank you & a quick icebreaker

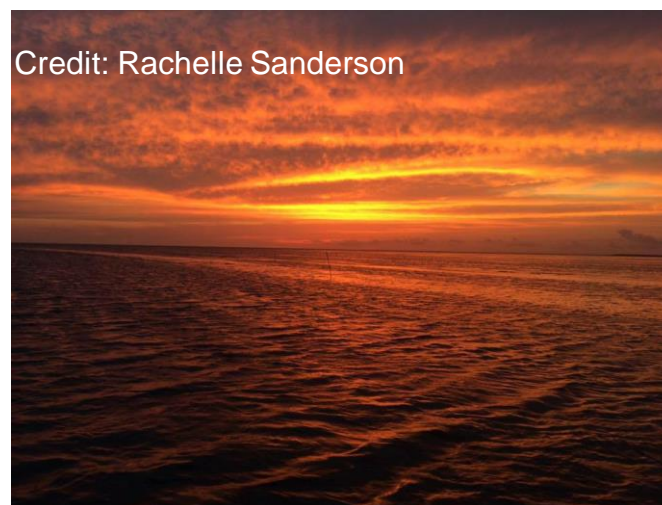
- For being with us today and for your flexibility as we shift back to virtual
- What did you want to be when you grew up? Did it work out?



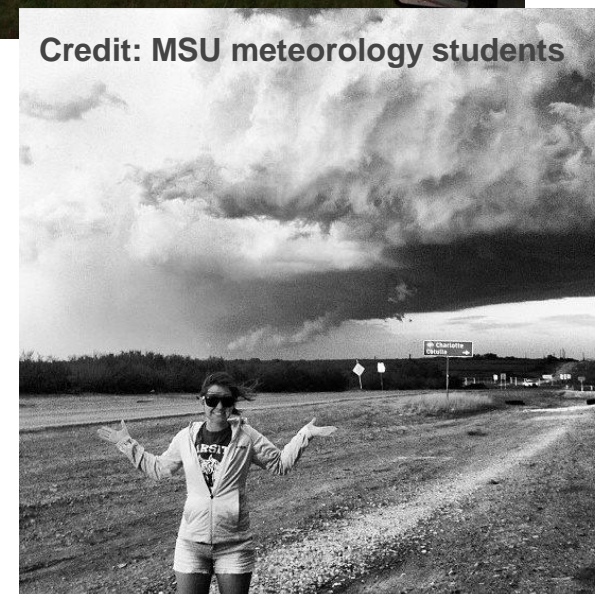
Credit: Twister



Credit: Rachelle Sanderson



Credit: Rachelle Sanderson



Credit: MSU meteorology students



Reminders of why we do the work

- August is a month filled with reminders of flood events for many of us:
 - 2020 - Laura
 - 2017 - Harvey
 - 2016 - summer flood event
 - 2012 - Isaac
 - 2005 - Katrina
 - What other events in August?



Credit: Rachelle Sanderson



Credit: Rachelle Sanderson



2. Past meetings recap, reminders, updates



Updates

Funding opportunities, capacity building, opportunities for feedback

- **Jones Creek Detention Project - Regional Recommendation approved by Watershed Council on August 5th**
- **Gulf Research Program grant (\$300,000)**
 - *Linking Coastal-Watershed Resilience to Urban Reinvestment: Build Baton Rouge and Louisiana Watershed Initiative Region 7*
- **Over \$1M in funds secured, applied for, or in-kind for capacity building to the benefit of Region 7 since Oct. 2020**
 - Grants/awards total: \$428,544
 - Leveraged capacity building support total: \$215,000
 - Pending total: \$412,000
 - **This wouldn't be possible without our partners - THANK YOU!!**



Updates

Capacity building and Transition Team

- **Georgetown Climate Center Affordable Housing & Flood Risk**
 - Workshops in mid-October to focus on initial build out of goals and objectives based on interviews, case studies, additional research. Leveraging in network facilitators through Foundation for Louisiana
- **Environmental Finance Centers**
 - Region-wide workshop in the fall, working on a survey to inform content. Survey sent out early August. Spring workshop to focus on capacity building based on findings from GCC, EPA, LSU, and other ongoing work
- **EPA Resilience Roadmap**
 - Updated to be in alignment with ongoing work - GCC + EFC work will inform. Structured decision-making process with a policy/programmatic focus



Updates

Papers and other updates

- **Journal of American Planning Association abstract for research paper selected for their Special Issue on “Anti-Racist Futures: Disrupting Racist Planning Practices in Workplaces, Institutions, and Communities”**
 - Dr. Thomas Douthat (LSU), Jennifer Li (Georgetown Climate Center), Manohar “Manny” Patole (NYU/Build BR), Rachelle Sanderson (CRPC)
- **Dewberry prepared for bi-monthly updates**



Updates

Open call for updates

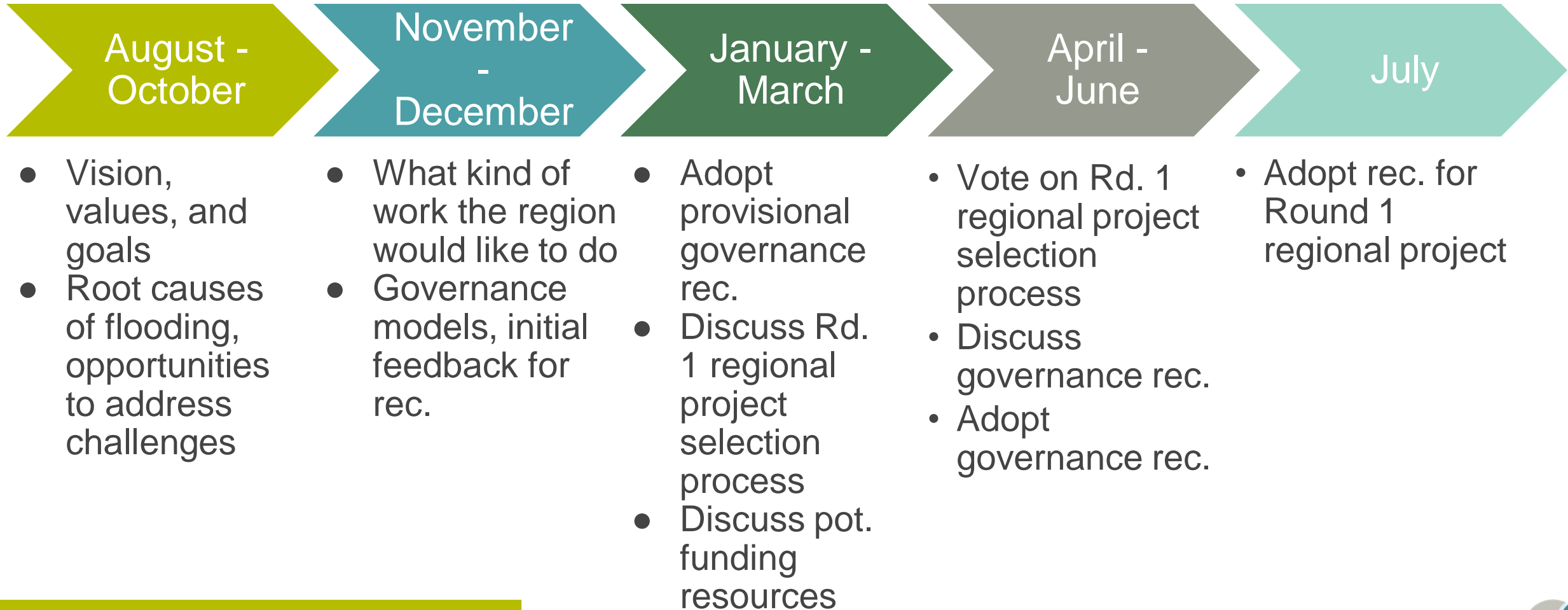
- **RSC members, let us know if you have updates**

- **Other folks on the call, please put updates you'd like to share in the chat pod**



A quick recap...

2020 - 2021



Reminder...

Mission & vision

LWI Mission:

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

Region 7 Vision:

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



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.





3. Feedback on draft membership structures



Expectations for today

Membership Structure

- Provide the governance support for our recommendation for **capacity building. Capacity building is an investment in the effectiveness and future sustainability of organizations**
- **When capacity building is successful, it strengthens a organization's ability to fulfill its mission over time, thereby enhancing the organization's ability to have a positive impact on lives and communities.**
- We'll be reviewing the draft documents and their components together
- **Ideally, we'll be able to end today's discussion with one structure (with the understanding that there may be some edits)**
- Feedback we'd like to hear:
 - overall impression; how to improve the structures; concerns; ways to be more explicit about diversity, equity, and inclusion; discussion around your potential role within the structure
- Feedback that isn't the main focus of today's discussion:
 - wordsmithing; incorporation of specific entities/organizations within voting membership
- We'll be discussing bylaws during our September meeting



Reminder

Presented during Feb. 25 RSC meeting

Karen + Bridget

Transition Team

Entire RSC

**BASELINE
EFFORT**

**ADDITIONAL
EFFORT**

**MAXIMUM
EFFORT**

NO ADDITIONAL ROLE

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

REVIEWER

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

WORKING GROUP MEMBER

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



Membership structures

Process for development

- **2020** → gathering feedback on potential member structures (for example, Dec. 15 discussion)
- **January to March** → Recruit for Transition Team a mix of RSC members, regional governance experts
- **April to July** → Meet with Transition Team to catch up to speed, identify leads for Bylaws and membership structure (Katie Spidalieri, Thuy Le, Ivy Mathieu); work on draft documents; Bring documents to Transition Team for feedback monthly; finalize documents late July
- **Early to mid August** → wrap up documents and collect feedback from Transition Team reviewers, others within Region 7 network, internal CRPC staff
- **End of August (today)** → Present the structures to the RSC for feedback with the goal of identifying one membership structure for our path forward



Introductions

Transition Team

NAME, AFFILIATION	AFFILIATIONS
Ronny Carter	Pontchartrain Conservancy, RSC member
Tara Lambeth	St. John the Baptist Parish, RSC member
Ivy Mathieu	STJB citizen, Retired HR professional, volunteer (LA recycling coalition, etc.), RSC member
Thuy Le (Lead) & Chris Dalbom & Mark Davis	Tulane Institute on Water Law & Policy
Jon Leo	Retired environmental lawyer, volunteer with many SELA orgs.
Katie Spidalieri	Georgetown Climate Center



Membership structures

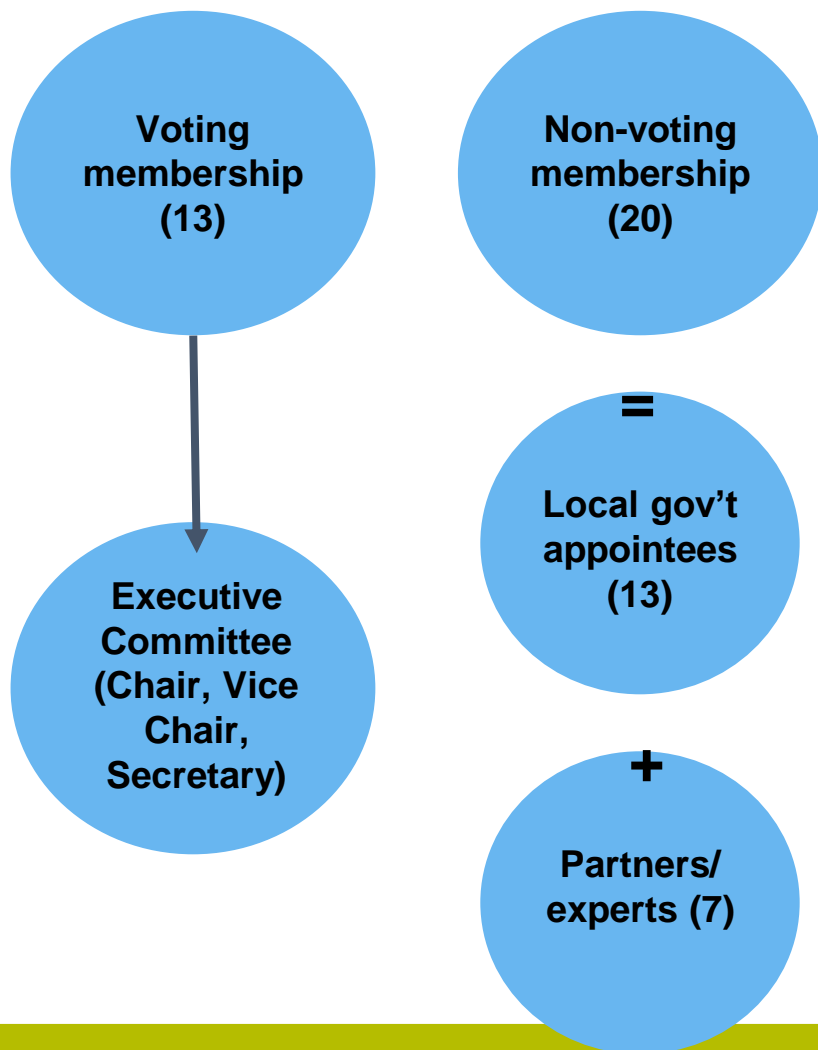
Some thinking behind them...

- Both are meant to provide a direct space for access to technical experts, on the ground knowledge, and resources that are to the benefit of the region.
- These are meant to strike a balance between the human experience of flooding, engineering, planning, and environment
- Explicit incorporation of frontline communities, equity, inclusivity, and diversity to work towards procedural and substantive equity
- Balance the need for many voices within the space with the administration of the structure.
- Are in alignment with fulfilling:
 - [JBE EO 2018-16:](#)
 - [Guiding principles framework](#)
 - [Long-Term Vision for Statewide Sustainability and Resilience LWI state document](#)
 - [Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation \(CDBG-MIT\) Action Plan](#)
 - [Regional Governance Recommendation from Region 7](#)



Membership structures

Membership structure #1



Voting Membership includes (13 members):

- Academic/University Seat (2)
- Resiliency Seat
- Community Representative Seat (1 or 2)
- Economic Development Seat
- Environmental Conservation Seat
- Environmental Justice Seat
- Health and Social Sector Seat
- Indigenous Peoples Seat (1 or 2)
- Legal Seat
- Planning Seat
- Water Sector Seat

Selected through application process

Non-voting membership includes (20 members):

Local government appointees (13 total): One appointed Parish or Municipal staffer per Parish in Region 7

- Selected by Parishes and the municipalities within them through a nomination process with a discussion

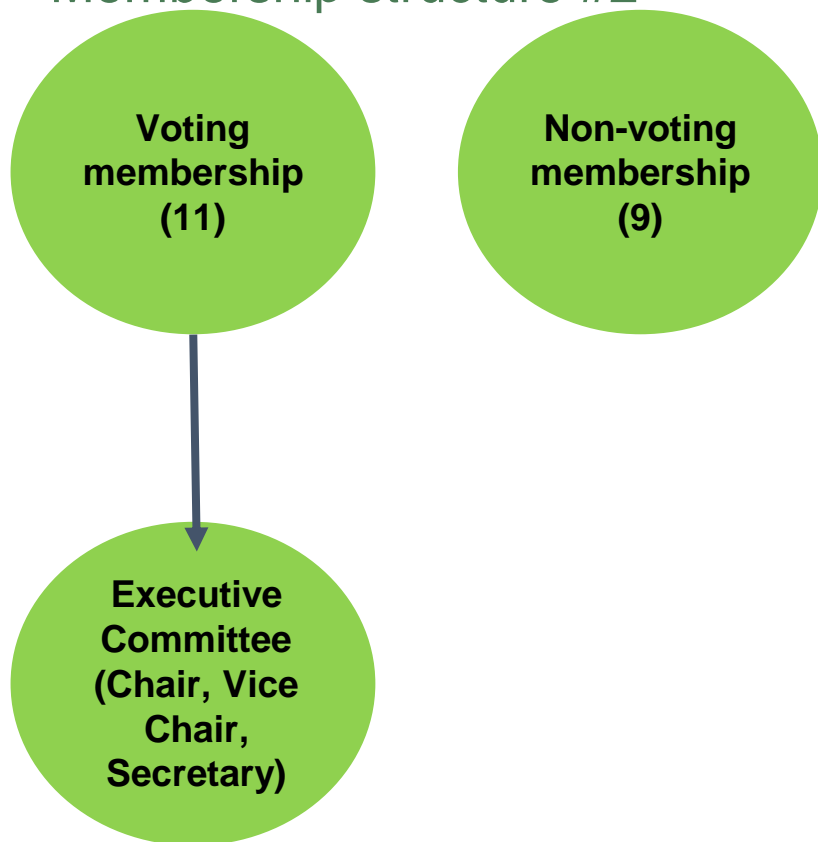
Partners/experts (7 total): Up to 7 individuals who are doing work with the region. These individuals may be at the regional, state, or national level.

- Selected through separate application process that asks the applicant to identify current work that they're partnering on and/or an idea that they might have to support the region through partner-based work



Membership structures

Membership structure #2



Voting Membership includes (11 members):

- Resiliency Seat
- Community Representative Seat (1 or 2)
- Economic Development Seat
- Environmental Conservation Seat
- Environmental Justice Seat
- Health and Social Sector Seat
- Housing Seat
- Indigenous Peoples Seat (1 or 2)
- Planning Seat
- Water Sector Seat

Selected through application process

Non-voting membership includes (9 members):

Up to nine individuals at the local, regional, state or national level who are doing work in or partnering with the region and/or provide technical assistance and/or provide expertise necessary for regional success

This may include Parish staffers and/or elected officials

- Selected through separate application process that asks the applicant to identify current work that they're partnering on and/or an idea that they might have to support the region through partner-based work



Membership structures

Differences

Membership structure #1 (Blue)

- **13 voting members.** Member application process for voting members. Selection committee makes determinations.
- **20 non-voting members** (13 government appointees nominated by Parishes and municipalities, 7 partners/experts)
- **Non-voting** - 13 local government representatives are appointed from each Parish. Each local Parish and municipality submit a nomination form and a meeting is called between all who made recommendations to discuss and select one individual
- **Non-voting** - 7 regional non-voting partners have a separate application process. Selection committee makes determinations.

Membership structure #2 (Green)

- **11 voting members**, no academic or legal seat
- **9 non-voting members** (partners/experts)
- Member application process for voting members. Selection committee makes determinations.
- Non-voting members have a separate application process. Selection committee makes determinations.



Membership structures

Work Groups

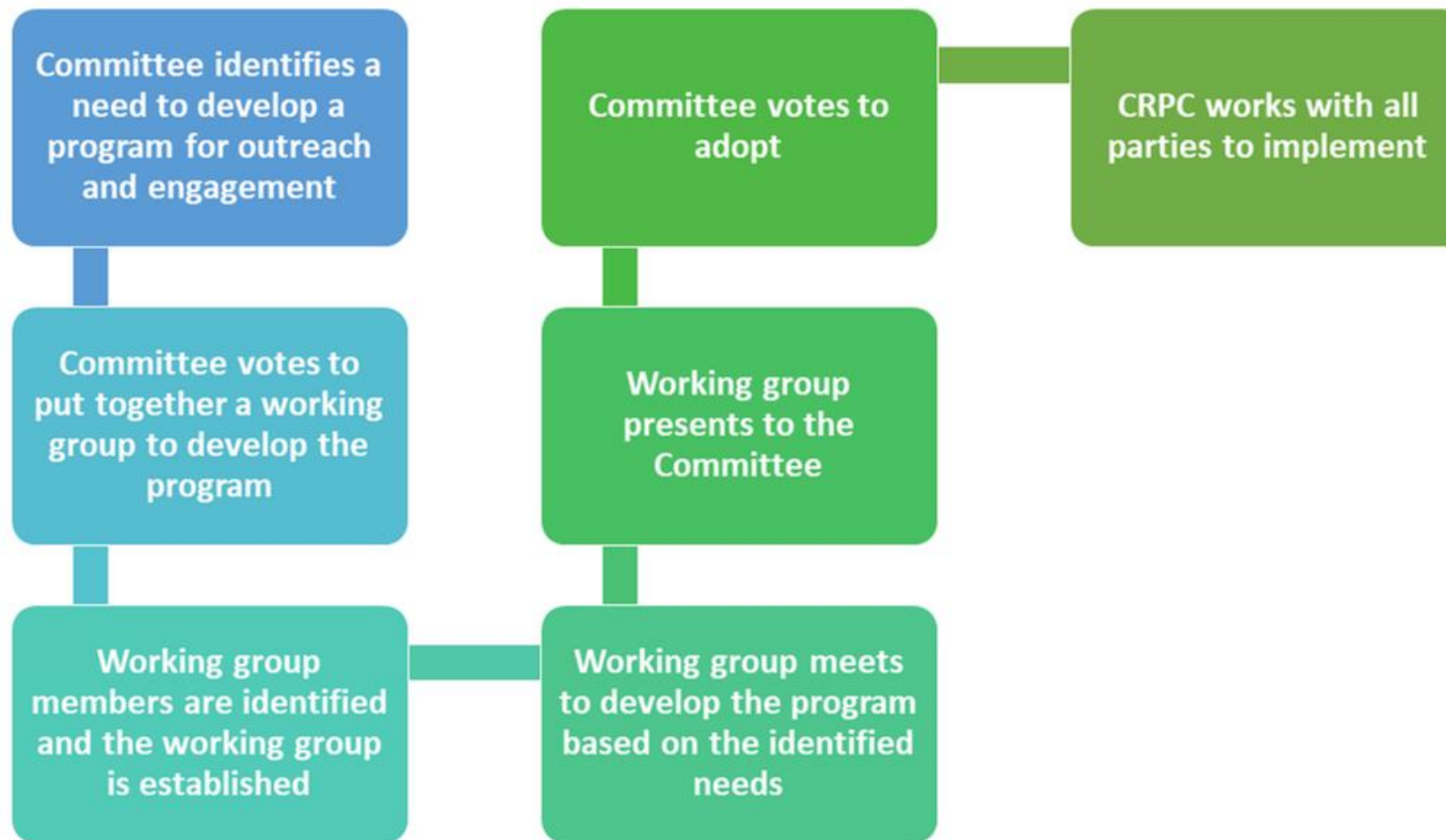
- Work Groups - Tool to augment expertise, resources, and to build capacity
- Each structure utilizes workgroups to build on the expertise of the voting and non-voting membership. They are stood up to help the committee achieve specific goals/deliverables.
- This is similar to how we operate at the moment

★ Indicates that an RSC member is a part of the group



Membership structures

Work Groups, Example



Membership structures

Application process - voting membership

Critical to ensure:

1. Alignment of skill sets with each position
2. Alignment with regional vision, values, and goals
3. Alignment with LWI mission
4. Diversity and inclusion of applicants
5. Ability to collaborate
6. Identify any potential conflicts of interest and/or issue conflicts with participation on the committee - minimum baseline is State Code of Ethics, will be considering COI during application process and while individuals are acting in their roles

The application would be an open call so anyone across the region may apply for a seat.

Selection committee for first set of members:

- 1 staffer from CRPC, 1 staffer from OCD, and 3 RSC members who are nominated and voted on by the group



Membership structures

Feedback

General	General cont.	what do people want to vote on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parish Presidents, unaware and more information may be helpful. - Voting body should be local government - Voting body should be people who understand drainage - academic, health, planning, social sector provide thoughts and input to locale government appointees but shouldn't vote on allocation of funds - Doesn't align with Executive Order if political subdivisions aren't voting members - integral part in EO - invitation to transition team - discuss in September - T-team back to drawing board - third proposal to present in september 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporation of voting and nonvoting members • 13 parishes, 13 voting roles, cover the roles within the drafted structures and have people submit for those seats, open call from those folks • data-driven process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordinating projects. best practices, subdivision rules,





4. LWI state-wide program updates



Working with Nature

TRAINING SERIES

SEPTEMBER 2021 TO JULY 2022

- Nine modules featuring nature-based solutions for flood mitigation
- Focus on design, implementation, financing and maintenance of nature-based solutions
- Educate and build capacity for future LWI funding rounds

SAVE THE DATE:

SEPT. 15 WEBINAR

For more information, visit watershed.la.gov/nature-based-solutions.



JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND PRESERVE



Model Use, Storage and Maintenance Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PLANNED OUTREACH

- **August 26 – October 25:** 60-day public comment period (*Notice distributed via email. For more information, visit watershed.la.gov/modeling-program.*)
- **August 31:** Webinar No. 1
- **September 24:** Webinar No. 2

LWI regional steering committee meetings will include updates on the public comment period, including links to webinars and how to submit comments. If requested, the state will provide a full presentation of the webinar at RSC meetings.



2019 BEST PRACTICE SSUMMIT

Round 2: Design Support Program

TIMELINE

APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

Summer 2021

- State agencies assess unfunded Round 1 projects for consistency with program priorities and level of technical assistance required.

DESIGN SUPPORT & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Fall 2021

- State contacts applicants. In coordination with regional staff, state agencies provide technical assistance and design support to applicants.
- Applicants update project designs or address issues.

PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter 2021

- Final projects are announced and awarded funding.

For more information, visit watershed.la.gov/local-regional-projects-programs



Regional Capacity Building: Phase II

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

- Regions are building momentum.
- Phase 1 funds will be expended by April 2022 (eight months).
- Without Phase 2 funding, staff reductions and loss of capacity are likely.
- Long-term regional watershed management entities (or coalitions) rely on Phase 2.
- Action Plan includes **Watershed Policy, Planning and Local Capacity Assistance program.**

Recommendation: a commitment of \$800,000 per region (\$6.4 million total) for Phase 2, to be expended by December 2026 (four-year grant, \$200,000 per year). For more information, visit watershed.la.gov/rcbg-program



REGION 4 RSC MEETING





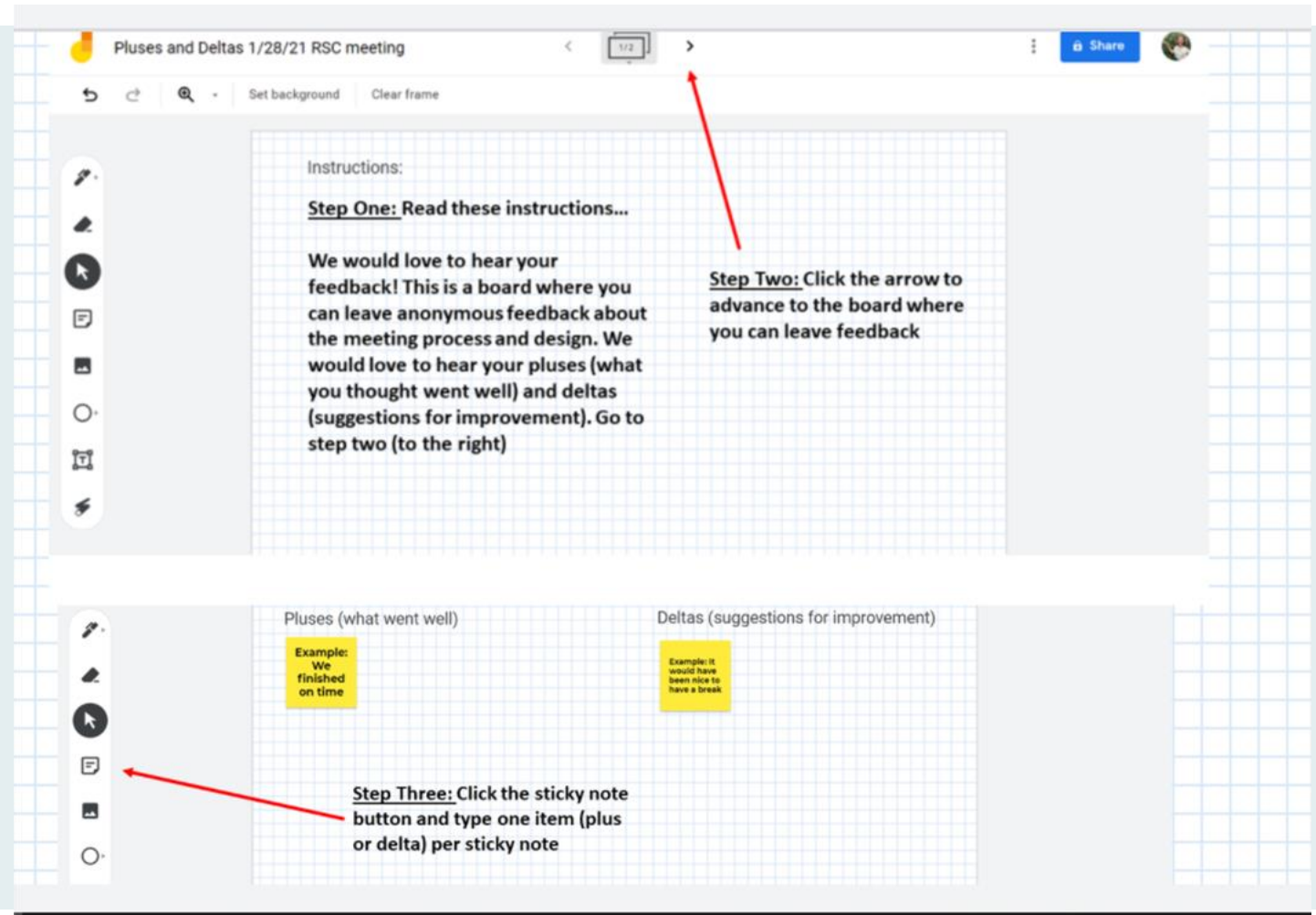
5. Public comment



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". A red arrow points to a right-pointing arrow icon in the top navigation bar. The middle section is titled "Pluses (what went well)" and "Deltas (suggestions for improvement)". It contains two yellow sticky notes: "Example: We finished on time" under Pluses and "Example: It would have been nice to have a break" under Deltas. A red arrow points to a sticky note icon in the left-hand toolbar. The bottom section contains the instruction: "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

- Adoption of July 22 meeting minutes
- Reminder - ethics certifications
- TD 9
- Upcoming meetings:
 - September 28 from 1 to 3:30pm
- Action items
- Visit CRPC's website at <https://crpcla.org/> for more information on Region 7
- Visit the LWI website at <https://watershed.la.gov/> for more information on LWI



Contact information

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



Local Governments Working Together Since 1967

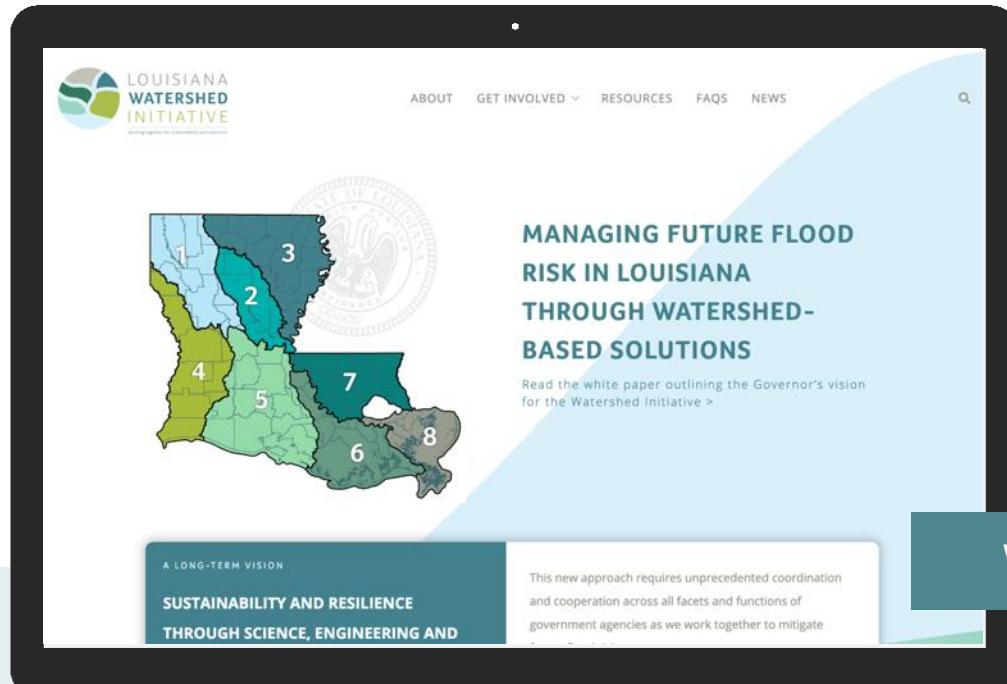


 @LAWATERSHEDINITIATIVE

 @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





RSC DECISION TRACKING

REGION 7

October 8, 2021

The purpose of this decision tracking document is to illustrate the progression of key decisions made by the Regional Steering Committee, and to capture the issues considered by members as they collaborated to build and devise a long-term framework for regional watershed management. The decision tracking document serves as a high-level overview record for the future entity and stakeholders. Additional information such as meeting minutes, materials, and documents can be viewed at: <https://crpcla.org/previous-events-archive>.

First version: The draft (unadopted) Provisional Governance Recommendation that was presented to the committee can be viewed [here](#).

Second version (adopted January 2021): The Provisional Governance Recommendation can be viewed [here](#):

Third version: A draft version of the final Governance Recommendation prior to final adoption can be viewed [here](#).

Final version (adopted June 2021): The Governance Recommendation that builds on the feedback received throughout the engagement process can be viewed [here](#).

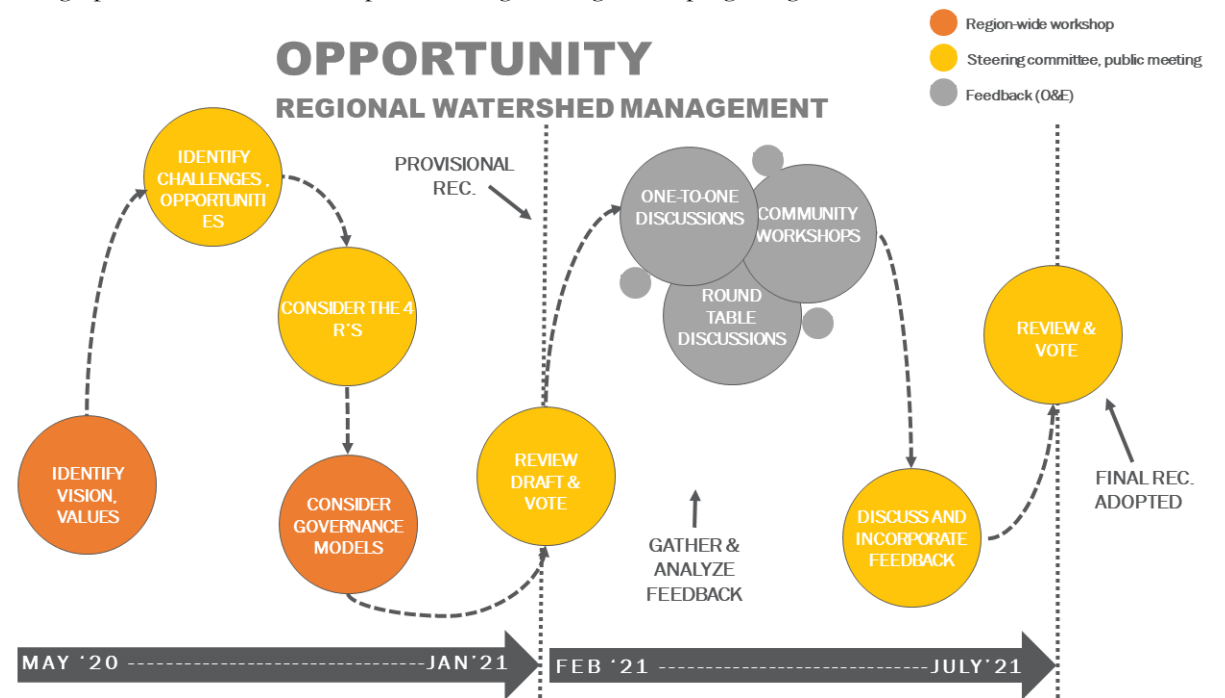
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

The Regional Steering Committee is comprised of 17 members. One member for each Parish represented in the region and four regional representatives. The current roster can be viewed here: <https://crpcla.org/regional-steering-committee>. The Steering Committee has been meeting monthly since May of 2020 with the exception of the month of September due to impacts from Hurricane Ida.



DECISION TRACKING

The graphic below outlines the process for gathering developing the governance recommendation.



A description of the timeline of activities is as follows:

- July 2020, discussion on regional risks and vulnerabilities
- August 2020, development of Region 7's Guiding Principles Framework that established a regional vision, values, and goals
- Early September 2020, Governance 101 presentation that was provided by Dr. Thomas Douthat with LSU's College of the Coast. This presentation provided critical information with regards to the needs for developing a governance structure, and existing watershed governance models. RSC members were led through a root cause analysis discussion to identify root causes for the flood risk challenges that were identified during the July meeting.
- Late September 2020, Discussing existing stakeholders in Region 7 by leveraging work conducted by OCD and their consultants Baker Donelson and work from Dr. Thomas Douthat through his plan analyses. Participants were asked to provide additions to the stakeholder lists. Participants were led through a goals and potential solutions discussion to identify potential solutions and actions to be taken in the Region to inform the design of the governance structure.
- October 2020, The October 13 RSC meeting focused finalizing the Guiding Principles Framework, developed during the August workshop and discussing existing organizations and scales of decision-making. The Guiding Principles Framework defines the values, vision, and goals for this region and is the framework



that will guide the work. The scales of decision-making discussion focused on identifying which decisions are best made at which scales of hydrologic units and government.

- Early November 2020, The November 2 meeting focused on existing authorities who perform watershed management-related tasks and their function and what the potential long-term organizational structure for the eventual governance structure. The purpose of this discussion was to provide RSC members with information to help them understand the roles of existing organizations and how those could eventually relate to the long-term governance structure.
- Mid November 2020, The November 19 RSC meeting focused on a high-level overview of potential funding mechanisms that could be pursued for the benefit of the long-term governance structure. Tulane Water Law and Policy presented a high-level overview and following this discussion, RSC members were led through a series of polls and discussions to determine potential paths forward.
- December 2020, The December 15 meeting was a milestone meeting that focused on the introduction of three potential governance models for the region. The format of this meeting was workshop-style and included breakout groups where individuals from across the region could also provide feedback. The feedback from these discussions will be used to inform the long-term governance structure.
- Early January 2021, This meeting focused on getting final feedback from the RSC on the specifics of the Provisional Governance Recommendation and prepared them for a formal vote during the January 28 meeting.
- Late January 2021, This meeting further reviewed the draft Provisional Governance Recommendation and focused on a committee vote. The Provisional Governance Recommendation passed with twelve yays, two nays. Three member affiliations were not represented.
- March 2021, This meeting focused on providing RSC members, and other viewers, with information on LWI Funding Strategies to consider.
- Spring 2021 -outreach for the provisional governance recommendation
 - o 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.
 - o Feedback received during this process can be viewed [here](#).

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
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- May 2021, This meeting focused on feedback on the governance recommendation from our outreach process and gathering additional feedback
- June 2021, This meeting focused on feedback on the governance recommendation and voting on the governance recommendation. The final recommendation passed unanimously with only one member affiliation absent.