

Council on Watershed Management Meeting Thursday, November 8, 2018, 1:30-4:30 PM

I. Called to Order by Pat Forbes at 1:30 PM

Welcome and opening comments

II. Council Member Roll Call:

Pat Forbes (OCD)

Casey Tingle (GOHSEP)

Jack Montoucet (LDWF)

Pat Landry (DOTD)

Johnny Bradberry (CPRA)

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Johnny Bradberry, CPRA

IV. Public Comment

Comments can be taken at the time the item is up on the agenda


Please limit comments to two minutes per citizen

V. Consent Agenda Items

Approval of September 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Approved, no opposition


VI. Acadiana Planning Commission Presentation

Given by Monique Boulet

 **Casey Tingle:** Do you have any building/leveraging local capacity suggestions?

Monique Boulet: Not just leverage and build, change mindsets, expand H&H experience, and include everyone during discussions.

Pat Forbes: No closed-door meetings.

 **Johnny Bradberry:** How many projects were included in the \$25M?

Monique Boulet: 23 projects.

 **Johnny Bradberry:** Were they technically vetted and how were they chosen?

Monique Boulet: Yes, and everyone graded, staff voted.

 **Pat Forbes:** Would a model have made it easier to decide?

Monique Boulet: A model would have been beneficial. Some decisions might have been different.

✚ **Johnny Bradberry:** Were differing local ordinances an issue?

Monique Boulet: The Acadiana Planning Commission does not have many ordinances around watersheds.

VII. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Updates

1. Engagement TAG

Alex Carter, Resilience Planning Manager, OCD

- Statewide Listening Tours Update
- What we've heard so far
 - a. Local involvement
 - b. Technical Assistance needs
 - c. Flood Mitigation Program outreach
- Next Steps
 - a. Complete Listening Tours and synthesize results in report form
 - b. Interstate Summit
 - c. Regional Meetings

2. Data TAG

Pat Landry, Deputy Assistant Secretary, DOTD

Ehab Meselhe, Professor at the Department of River-Coastal Science & Engineering

- Modeling & Procurement – Strong desire for regional participation
- Stakeholder Engagement Amite Modeling Effort on Nov. 15 at BREC
 - ✚ **Johnny Bradberry:** What is the cost for modeling the Amite?
Pat Landry: Approximately \$1.96M
 - ✚ **Johnny Bradberry:** What is the cost for modeling the 58-59 watersheds?
Pat Landry: \$5-10M each
- Next Steps
 - a. Data TAG draft a strategy establishing the appropriate level of state/local partnership – Estimated January 2019
 - b. Establish base standards for data collection; Data should feed into a 'living model' with a focus on calibration; Focus on using funds efficiently
- Data Track Update
 - a. Dataset workshops completed
 - b. 3 of 5 white papers are completed, which summarize what data is available, it's importance, status and future plans
 - c. Follow-up correspondence
- Key Findings
 - a. All three datasets are available statewide
 - b. Lidar dates vary throughout state
- Data Gap Analysis
 - a. River and Rain Gages
 - b. Water Quality
 - c. Opportunity to engage with DEQ

- Next Steps
 - a. Engage with USGS, NRCS and DOTD regarding ongoing Lidar updates
 - b. Promote local participation in NHD development & improvement
 - c. Evaluation of gage locations
 - d. Coordinate with DEQ on flow data

3. **Projects TAG**

Matt Weigel, Biologist Programs Manager, LDWF

- What we've heard so far
 - a. Prioritize continuous, historical impact areas
 - b. Gage projects will provide more accurate data/aid development of future projects
 - c. Focus on "green" projects
- Projects – Progress
 - a. Engaged with FEMA & Listening Tour participants
 - b. TAG Workshop held on 10/31/18
- Evaluation Criteria Update
 - a. TAG members have finalized recommendations for criteria weighting
 - b. Refined individual criteria under each category
- Next Steps
 - a. Program Alignment

4. **Planning TAG**

Danica Adams, Planning Analyst, OCD

- What we've heard so far
 - a. State should provide a minimum plan framework for watersheds to follow
 - b. Funding, projects, and other decisions driven by floodplain management expertise, not politics
 - c. Integrate local plans with regional/state watershed plans
 - d. Pre-disaster planning should be watershed specific
- Next Steps (Short-term / Long-term)
 - a. Considerations/recommendations to develop, implement & enforce statewide plan (short-term)
 - b. Recommend content and nature of a statewide floodplain management plan (short-term)
 - c. Make recommendations for alignment of existing plans (long-term / likely after February 2019)
- Upcoming Milestone
 - a. Kickoff Statewide Planning Process

5. **Policy TAG**

Sam Martin, Executive Management Officer 1, CPRA

- What we've heard so far
 - a. Ensure policy consistency across watersheds

- b. Policy-related best practice publications/resources
- c. Policy enforcement
- d. Local/State to be partners in flood risk reduction
- e. Consistency across the state, for the state
- o Next Steps
 - a. Identify gaps in state facility floodplain management & flood risk management; Make recommendations to resolve
 - b. White papers/research for specific local/statewide policy to be published on a rolling basis
 - c. Increase coordination across state agencies

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Campbell, Board Member of Land Trust for Louisiana

Can documents and/or background packets be sent to members before the listening tours next week? Also, the council should read 'The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea'.

Alex Carter – Yes, we will have packets available.

Monique Boulet, Acadiana Planning Commission

Will the data be vetted? Will local input be sought?

Pat Forbes – Yes, most definitely.

Dietmar Rietschier, Executive Director, Amite River Basin

Good to have this finally put together and have a protocol. The public should be educated on what modeling is and why it is important.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

IX. New Business

1. Draft Website and Data Portal Plan

Alex Carter, Resilience Planning Manager, OCD

- o Please refer to handout 3, "Everything Flood Related Website Draft Overview". This summarizes the goals, target audience, timeline, and associated timeframe for different levels of the "Everything Flood Related website" buildout. As we move through this plan in the next two months, implementing the online public comment feature and beginning to provide more resources online, we would like to introduce it to the council and the public and invite their feedback.

Pat Forbes: The floor is open for public comments.

Dennis Scott, Calcasieu Parish

Some ordinance assistance may be needed. Keep public awareness as a priority. Explain what

everything means and why it is important. Link watershed website to Calcasieu Parish.

 **Hampton Peele, LSU**

I would just like to offer my assistance and collaboration.

Pat Forbes: Do I have a motion to approve the draft “Everything Flood Related Website Plan” as distributed?

Johnny Bradberry: I motion to approve.

Casey Tingle: I second the motion to approve.

Pat Forbes: Approved with no opposition.

2. **Watershed Administration RFP**

Alex Carter, Resilience Planning Manager, OCD

- The Request for Proposals is currently going through the Office of State Procurement. We would like to simply bring this to the public's attention as we anticipate advertising soon and request approval from the council to advertise once approval from OSP is obtained.

Pat Forbes: With no public comments on this item, do I have a motion to approve the advertisement of the Watershed Administration RFP upon review and approval of OSP?

Pat Landry: I motion to approve.


Johnny Bradberry: I second the motion to approve.

Pat Forbes: Approved with no opposition.

3. **Regional Capacity Building Grant Program**

Alex Carter, Resilience Planning Manager, OCD

- In response to what we have heard on our Listening Tours thus far, we would recommend formation and implementation of a Regional Capacity Building Grant Program.

 **Johnny Bradberry:** How long will this program be in place?

Pat Forbes: We have 6 years to spend funding from date of the grant agreement.

Pat Forbes: The floor is open for public comments.

 **Cindy O’Neal, DOTD**

Please explain the Regional Capacity Building Grant Program.

Alex Carter: The Regional Capacity Building Grant Program is to form and implement where we will work with locals to determine what they need to successfully work alongside us. Assistance could take the form of staffing, education/training and Technical Assistance – the key is that we work to identify and right-size our solutions to what will work with locals and the mission of this Initiative.

Pat Forbes: Do I have a motion to approve the formalization and implementation of the Regional Capacity Building Program?

Johnny Bradberry: I motion to approve.

Pat Landry: I second the motion to approve.

Pat Forbes: Approved with no opposition.

4. **Proposed Next Meeting Date**

Alex Carter, Resilience Planning Manager, OCD

- In an effort to be as productive and efficient as possible, we are recommending that the next council meeting date be moved to January 30, unless some action is needed prior to December 20. The move is meant to reflect that near term recommendations will not be ready until then, these include, but are not limited to, a proposed 2019 engagement and messaging strategy, recommended state/local modeling approach and minimum standards, revised 6-month schedule of deliverables. During this time period, we will also continue the work discussed throughout today's meeting.

Pat Forbes: With no public comments on this item, do I have a motion to approve the December 20 meeting date as "as needed"? In other words, it will be held only if a decision by the council is needed at that time.

Jack Montoucet: I motion to approve.

Casey Tingle: I second the motion to approve.

Pat Forbes: Approved with no opposition.

X. **Closing Remarks**

1. Schedule and Milestone Review

XI. **Adjournment**

Pat Forbes: Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Pat Landry: I motion.

Johnny Bradberry: I second the motion.

Pat Forbes: Adjournment at 3:33 PM.