Council on Watershed Management Meeting
Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 1:30-4:30 PM

Council Member Roll Call:

Pat Forbes (OCD)
Casey Tingle (GOHSEP)
Matthew Weigel (LDWF)
Pat Landry (DOTD)
Michael Ellison (CPRA)

Called to Order by Pat Forbes at 1:31 PM
Welcome and opening comments

Approval of August 15, 2018 meeting minutes
No opposition

Louisiana Watershed Initiative Background and Structure Presentation
Given by Pat Forbes (OCD) and Casey Tingle (GOHSEP)

1. Executive Order by Gov. Edwards in May 2018
2. Mission of council
3. Watershed Council consists of 5 Louisiana Agencies: OCD, GOHSEP, LDWF, DOTD, CPRA
4. Long-term Statewide Effort
5. TAG (Technical Advisory Groups) – Each TAG is charged with engaging on a local/national level to bring ideas to council

Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) Updates

- **Working Group – Danica Adams, OCD**
    - Over all TAGs – Arms/Legs of council
    - Ensures that expertise is utilized across state
    - Supports funding and internal alignment
    - Overview of Completed and Orders of Business
        - Regional Hiring Strategy
        - Initial Program Metrics
        - Alignment with the Initiative

- **Engagement TAG – Sandra Gunner, OCD**
    - Leverage knowledge of stakeholders to inform LA Watershed Initiative
    - Coordinate and Collaborate Outreach and Engagement Efforts

- o Overview of Completed and Orders of Business
    - ▪ Interstate Summits to expand engagement to gather & provide information
        - • FEMA to provide invitational travel for three states
        - • GOHSEP conducting preliminary phone interviews to identify initiatives relative to relevant proposed elements in Louisiana
    - ▪ LA Watershed Initiative Exchange
        - • Regional coordination with support from the state's regional planning commissions
        - • Briefings with state associations and letters directly to elected officials
        - • Email communications and press releases
    - ▪ Statewide Listening Sessions 10/8-11/15

- • **Public Relations TAG – Marvin McGraw, OCD**
    - o Provide information to media outlets to communicate the progress of the Council & Initiative
    - o Increase public awareness and knowledge
    - o Overview of Completed and Orders of Business
        - ▪ Website Tour (http://watershed.la.gov)
        - ▪ Communication Strategies
            - • Branding standards
            - • Website as an official landing place
            - • Press Releases
            - • Social Media Presence

- ⬛ **Questions/Comments**
- ✓ Michael Ellison, CPRA – Suggestion to interact with communities individually
- ✓ Pat Landry, DOTD – Include who maintains website and contact information; Add links for different agencies involved
- ✓ Casey Tingle, GOHSEP – Provide website link on different agencies sites
- ✓ Pat Forbes, OCD – Discuss adding website link to the DOA website

- • **Projects TAG – Matthew Weigel, LDWF**
    - o Provide extreme consistency & transparency in decision making
    - o Identify and assist in the development of local and state resiliency projects
    - o Overview of Orders of Business
        - ▪ HUD Mitigation Funding – hoping for language soon
        - ▪ Application Rounds/Phases Overview

- ⬛ **Questions/Comments**
- ✓ Pat Forbes, OCD – HUD has approached for ideas on language; FRN could be published any day/month but unfortunately no date has been offered

- • **Policy TAG – Cindy O'Neal, DOTD / National Flood Insurance Program**
    - o Create a path for the state to promote actions to enhance watershed and floodplain management in Louisiana
    - o Ensure decisions use the best available science, technology and knowledge

- o Overview of Completed and Orders of Business
    - ▪ Develop recommendations to achieve alignment of existing state programs
    - ▪ Statewide policy investigation

- **Planning TAG – Danica Adams, OCD**
    - o Mission Overview
    - o Overview of Orders of Business
        - ▪ Assign members
        - ▪ Agencies that will build TAG
        - ▪ Statewide Strategic Plan – all agencies have plans & need to be aligned
        - ▪ Planning TAG will be stood up by next meeting, 11/8

- **Data TAG (Data Track) – Pat Landry, DOTD**
    - o Provide solid foundation of science and engineering
    - o Ensure that excellent quality and consistency across platforms is achieved
    - o Incorporate science and engineering into all programs
    - o Overview of Data Track and Orders of Business
    - o Technical Workshops and Listening Sessions / agenda example
- **Data TAG (Modeling Track) – Ehab Meselhe, Water Institute**
    - o Identify existing standards to adopt and, if necessary, develop additional standards regarding model data & software tools, use, quality control, storage, and update & maintenance
    - o Overview of Modeling Track and Orders of Business
        - ▪ Model Standards
        - ▪ Implementation Process
        - ▪ Quality Assurance and Quality Control
        - ▪ Model Storage and Maintenance
- **Questions/Comments**
- ❖ Kevin Crosby, Ouachita Parish Engineer – How are locals going to provide input on their terrain?
- ✓ Danica Adams, OCD – Several opportunities through data exchange & continuous roadshows
- ✓ Pat Landry, DOTD – Engagement TAG will also help with that by getting out there with the locals
- ❖ Ellis Booth, Catahoula Parish – Will the MS flooding be taken into consideration?
- ✓ Ehab Meselhe, Water Institute – Absolutely

Council Approvals

Pat Forbes, OCD – Any objections to the orders of business for the individual technical advisory groups? If not, I motion to approve all to move forward.

No opposition. All Technical Advisory Groups are to move forward with all Orders of Business as presented.

Ouachita Strong Presentation

Mayor Mayo, City of Monroe and Mayor Mitchell, City of West Monroe
Opening remarks and expressed their appreciation and excitement about the initiative. Requested to be an active participant on the initiative in a letter to Governor Edwards.

Kevin Crosby, Ouachita Parish Engineer
Gave presentation.
Two requests during presentation:
HMGP Match
Have modeling done before making policy decisions

- **Questions/Comments**
- ❖ Kevin Crosby, Ouachita Parish Engineer – When will the public going to be educated?
  - ✓ Pat Forbes, OCD – Currently developing process to engage citizens because they need to understand so they will support this initiative.
  - ✓ Casey Tingle, GOHSEP – The website, once fully formed, will be a tool.
  - ✓ Danica Adams, OCD – We will be requesting topics for program publications and white pages.

Public Comment

- Cindy O'Neal, DOTD
  - o Gave props to Ouachita Parish
  - o Provided a new set of maps
- Ellis Booth, Catahoula Parish
  - o Inquired on why other parishes were not contacted
  - o Request to have someone reach out to the rural parishes

Council Approvals and Final Discussion

- **Funding approval deferred to OCD for TAG Support**
  - o Pat Forbes, OCD – Request approval for OCD to approve minor funding requests, anything less than $50,000, without the need for a council vote.

No opposition. OCD has the authority from the council to approve minor funding requests, anything less than $50,000, without a council vote.

Adjournment