

Council on Watershed Management Meeting
Friday, August 15, 2018, 2:00-5:00 PM

Approved

Attendees:

Pat Forbes (OCD)	Casey Tingle (GOHSEP)	Jack Montoucet (LDWF)
Pat Landry (DOTD)	Danica Adams (OCD)	Carly Foster (ARCADIS)
Lori Dupont (OCD)	Johnny Bradberry (CPRA)	Toye Taylor (Governor's Office)
Bren Haase (CPRA)	Ricky Moses (LDWF)	Raynie Harlan (LDWF)
Billy Williamson (DOTD)	Sandra Gunner (OCD)	Pat Santos (OCD)
Paul Sawyer (Cong. Graves)	Janice Lovett (OCD)	Lawrence Callender (FSEM)
Rep. Valerie Hodges	Drew Ratcliff (CRPC)	LaSonta Davenport (OCD)
Michelle Gonzales (ARCADIS)	Chuck Berger (LDEQ)	Ed Knight (DOTD)
Stuart Brown (CPRA)	Sam Martin (CPRA)	Matt Weigel (LDWF)

Meeting was opened by Pat Forbes at 2:03 PM

Brief introduction of the Executive Order issued by Governor Edwards, watersheds and flood risks
Public Comment will be held at the end of the meeting

Approval of July 11, 2018 meeting minutes

Motioned: Casey Tingle
Seconded: Johnny Bradberry
No opposition

Council on Watershed Management Co-Chair Selection

GOHSEP will be co-chair – no opposition to decision
Chair rotates annually

Status Updates:

- Open Meetings Law
 - Attorney concurred, will proceed with open meeting rules
- Budget for the \$1.2B
 - Option to incur pre-award costs is slower than usual as HUD is still preparing the Notice for Federal Registry. Until then, risk may need to be taken by each agency with internal resources as eligible cost are not defined at this point
 - HUD notice is loosely expected in the fall; several months later, may be able to begin projects. Council has a draft action plan ready to go. Preparations will put us in a good position to move quickly, but will also have to be adjusted based on the rules of the notice
- CEA SOW Draft
 - Casey Tingle reminded all that BA7s will be needed to accept the revenue and all agencies should request together

Updates and Dialogue:

- Phase 1 Report – will be released prior to the Pearl River Task Force meeting on 8/16/18
- Marvin McGraw and John Snow presented the PR TAC information for logo, white paper, website, and communications plan. Focus is making plan and website active, transparent, and living

Approval of Logo

Motioned: Casey Tingle

Seconded: Pat Landry

No opposition

- Mr. Bradberry has comments to ensure the story maps on the LWI website are consistent with the story maps on the CPRA website
- Discussion followed about how future council agendas will have a report from WG members to ensure council is aware of the connectivity between agencies and agency programs
- Engagement Paradigm
- Data Standards Track – Sam Martin
- Modeling Track – Ed Knight
 - DOTD is in the process of gathering LiDAR statewide
 - Questions that are being answered by TAC – how do we make it all work together?
 - Pat Santos suggested to contact Brant Mitchell at SDMI as they have survey data
 - Casey Tingle mentioned engagement is needed as many locals have funding ready to spend on surveying and data collection, but want to do it in the manner needed for the models
 - Ensure FEMA R6 and USACE efforts are leveraged
- Projects TAC – Jeffrey Giering
 - Discussion of the rounds and phases for project submission
 - Mr. Bradberry asked – what is the process to apply?
 - The TAC will begin working on that and have recommendation for 9/25 meeting
 - Casey Tingle mentioned some communities will be ready to apply and others will need time to prepare
 - Prior to final decisions on project criteria, will need HUD guidelines
 - OCD has a draft action plan and will edit when the Notice is in the Federal Registry
 - Comment – Need to ensure fair process for northern locations that may not be familiar with application process with phases, application workshops will help, funding the third phase could help
 - NRCS and USACE funds may need match
- FRRP
 - Comment – Prefer the term ‘lead’ to ‘guide’
 - Comment – Parishes that have had the benefit of close coordination with CPRA may not be representative of other parishes across the state. It’s critical that we engage and integrate their feedback to develop the initiative

New Business

- Casey Tingle stated HMGP applications were submitted to FEMA as of 8/14/18 and are requesting FEMA to allow new applications to be submitted after the HUD notice to ensure the option for global match projects is fully leveraged
- There will be a Resilient Recovery Task Force meeting the last 2 weeks of Sept. in Ouachita, perhaps hold the next council meeting in that area also
- Would this money be considered for the match for USACE projects?
- Livingston Parish has a NRCS grant for \$53.5M and they need approximately \$5M in match

Public Comment

- Paul Sawyer – Congressman Graves’ Office
 - Update from the Data TAC was refreshing; wants to ensure the information will not just be a clearinghouse of information but also something that can be updated often; the portal should form a “dynamic nexus” that can leverage the investments from all over the state; a lot of money is being spent on data that can go stale (be out of date) quickly so it is critical that the database be dynamic
 - He sees this as Louisiana taking a leadership role in water management, using the coastal master plan
 - Reminder and emphasis that this program must be more than a project implementation effort; this program must be focused on all aspects of floodplain management if we are truly to reduce flood risk across the state
- Valerie Hodges – State Representative District #64
 - Commended the council for its work; didn’t realize it was this far along
 - Asked for roadshow workshop in her district
 - Emphasized the need for regular and sustainable funding
 - Reminded of Act 360 which required an update to the State Floodplain Management Plan
- Lawrence Callender – FSEM
 - Use the Amite as a beta test for the rest of the state
 - Watershed-Based projects are critical; emphasized interdependencies within and outside of watersheds
- Chuck Berger – DEQ
 - Reminder that water quality can be heavily affected by channelization activities
- Rowdy Gaudet – East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President Broome’s Office
 - Involve the locals
 - Wants to share available data (points to need for a place for people to submit their data)

Next Meeting

- Website presentation
- How we are collaborating and leveraging efforts