

# DECEMBER 17, 2020 LWI REGION 8 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MATERIALS

Agenda..... 1

Meeting Minutes.....2

Meeting Poll Results.....4



LOUISIANA  
**WATERSHED**  
INITIATIVE

# LWI Region 8 Steering Committee

Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, & St. Charles Parishes

## I. Regional Steering Committee Introductions

## II. Roll Call

## III. Approval of October 22, 2020 Minutes

*(vote required)*

## IV. LWI Program Updates

- a. Updates & Comments from LWI state representatives
- b. Updates from the RPC

## V. Coalition Working Group Updates

## VI. Develop Coalition Recommendations

## VII. Public Comment

## VIII. Questions/Adjourn

*(vote required)*

# LWI Region 8 Steering Committee

Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, & St. Charles Parishes

LWI Capacity Building Grant – Region 8 Regional Steering Committee Meeting

December 17, 2020 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

## I. Regional Watershed Planning

a. Online meeting etiquette: Microphones/Phones on mute unless you are speaking

Questions may be asked via the question box

Votes: Motion, second, & online poll or voice/email tally (committee members only)

Public comments will be at end of meeting, notify staff via question box or verbally

## II. Roll Call

### Present

- Stephanie Bruning
- Blaise Pezold
- Matt Falati
- Albertine Kimble
- Maggie Talley
- Jessica Dandridge
- Danielle Honor
- Ken Dugas

### Absent

- Ronald Carrere, Jr.
- Tyler Antrup
- Derek Boese

## III. Approval of October 22, 2020 Minutes

a. Moved by: Blaise Pezold; Seconded by: Maggie Talley

b. 100% in favor to approve the October 22, 2020 minutes.

## IV. LWI Program Updates

a. Updates from the state:

- There's a Council on Watershed management meeting today from 1:30-3:30pm.
- The state's working on a nature based solutions training program that will launch sometime, in the first quarter of next year.

b. Updates from the RPC:

- None

## V. Coalition Working Group Updates

a. November Working Group Briefing:

1. Funding:

- Act as “conduit” for securing/distributing

2. Planning:

- Regional & Sub-area Plans
- Project review & prioritization

3. Coordination & Innovation:

- Resource Sharing (best practices, data, modeling, etc.)
- Outreach to public, development/real estate industry
- Setting Standards
- Intergovernmental coordination

# LWI Region 8 Steering Committee

Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, & St. Charles Parishes

- b. December Working Group Briefing: Three main questions posed by the state
  1. Who should be in the coalition?
    - Working group consensus: a mix of public, private, elected officials, & community members.
  2. How fixed should boundaries be?
    - Specify how boundaries can be changed in charter
    - Make sure to account for what grant funding can approve
    - Boundaries should be legislatively authorized to help prevent corruption
  3. How will potential funds be passed to parishes?
    - The coalition could act as a landing pad for grant funds
    - Cooperative agreements do not have been routed through the coalition.
- c. RSC Additions
  - Administration/staffing is important to factor into fund management
  - Project funding contingent on consistency with regional plans & standards
  - Will funding be to the coalition or through coalition is an important distinction?
  - How do current recommendations relate to eventual permanent authority/funding?

## V. Develop Coalition Recommendations

- a. To start the conversation RPC staff and have drafted three proposed models. RSC members are urged to comment, correct, and change.
- b. RSC comments on Model A
  - Does this model allow for widespread input from multiple stakeholder groups? Gov. Task Force would be a good model to follow to include more voices.
  - May limit innovation/flexibility by not including non-govt. voices
  - Does this introduce another level of enforcement/regulation, or conflict with local government authority?
  - How to ensure standards/regulations are strong enough to prevent non-compliance or opt-out. Consider the appeals process and who should be on that board.
  - Working as a regional governmental entity can enable the difficult discussion to have the backing of the region.
- c. RSC comments on Model B
  - A model drawback is grant dependency. When grant funding is no longer available the coalition might have to disband. (This can also be a defining issue for some government entities that have no millage or flexible funding.
  - Where will the community and other organizations place their trust? A new organization will have to struggle to build trust and a reputation.
  - If lack of funding causes coalition disbandment who and what communities or who will then be negatively affected
  - Who will the coalition be accountable to?
  - A benefit is a new agency could function without existing biases; greater potential for regionalism

# LWI Region 8 Steering Committee

Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, & St. Charles Parishes

## d. RSC comments on Model C

- Existing precedent (Audubon, City Park)
- Potential to enhance equity/diversity/representation
- How does administration/management/decision-making work between agencies/partners, especially long term?
  - This will need to be established in the strategic planning session
- This model can fill in the gaps by utilizing the benefits of both models and extend coalition reach.
- Helps to support equity across the region

## e. What agencies could take the lead?

- Parish & municipality
- Levee board
- Soil & water conservation
- The water collaborative
- The RPC was suggested but to make this possible it will entail authorization & approval from the RPC board as well as state entities.
- University ie UNO CHART
- Parish staff could add capacity/assistance, rotate/share responsibilities
- Consider a transition team

## f. The timeline going forward

- Preliminary recommendations are due in January
- Between January and spring 2021 a vetting process will pass through the state teams, legal counsel, and regional partners.
- In May of 2021, a finalized recommendation is due to the state LWI team.
- The goal is for a package to be presented to legislation in Spring 2022.
- Fall 2022 is the projected time to start standing up the coalition.

## VI. Public Comment

- a. None

## X. Question/Adjourn

- a. Moved by: Maggie Talley; Seconded by: Blaise Pezold
- b. 100% in favor to adjourn