DECEMBER 17, 2020
LWI REGION 8 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MATERIALS

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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

   Absent
   - Jessica Dandridge
   - Danielle Honor
   - Ken Dugas
   - 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
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
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