

# LWI REGION 8 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MATERIALS May 27, 2021

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# LWI Region 8 Steering Committee

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

## LWI Capacity Building Grant – Region 8 Regional Steering Committee Meeting

May 27, 2021 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

### Agenda

- I. **Regional Steering Committee Introductions**
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Approval of April 22, 2021 Minutes** (*vote required*)
- IV. **LWI Program Updates**
  - a. Updates from the RPC
  - b. Updates & Comments from LWI state representatives
- V. **Region 8 Steering Committee Next Steps Discussion**
- VI. **Public Comment**
- VII. **Questions/Adjourn** (*vote required*)

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## LWI Capacity Building Grant – Region 8 Regional Steering Committee Meeting

April 22, 2021 9:00 AM – 10:45 AM

### Minutes

#### I. Regional Steering Committee Introductions

- a. Online meeting etiquette: Microphones/Phones on mute unless you are speaking. Questions may be asked via the question box. Votes: Motion, second, & voice/chat box tall (committee members only). Public comments will be at the end of the meeting, notify staff via question box or verbally.

#### II. Roll Call

- a. Present
  - i. Tyler Antrup
  - ii. Derek Boese
  - iii. Jessica Dandridge
  - iv. Ken Dugas
  - v. Matt Falati
  - vi. Blaise Pezold
  - vii. Maggie Talley
- b. Absent
  - i. Stephanie Bruning
  - ii. Danielle Honor
  - iii. Albertine Kimble
  - iv. Meagan Williams

#### III. Approval of March 25, 2021 Minutes

- a. Moved by: Blaise Pezold;
- b. Seconded by: Derek Boese
- c. 100% in favor to approve the March 25, 2021 minutes.

#### IV. LWI Program Updates

- a. Updates from the RPC (Tom Haysley)
  - i. The RPC has hired a new staff member who will devote roughly half of her time to LWI.
  - ii. HUD and the state have approved a one year extension to the RCBG grant, to April, 2023. They have also approved a one year deadline extension for formation of the watershed coalition, to August, 2022. This will allow more flexibility in completing remaining grant tasks. At the May RSC meeting staff will discuss with

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committee members how the committee should continue to function over the remainder of the grant period.

- b. Updates & Comments from LWI state representatives (Nicolette Jones)
  - i. The state has received and is scoring Round 1 project applications. The state awards will be announced at the end of May, after which the remaining applications will be sent to the regions for recommendation. The regions will be expected to make recommendations by the end of the summer.
- c. Other Updates
  - i. Chris Humphreys will be replacing Derek Boese as the representative for the Flood Protection Authority on the RSC. RPC staff will contact the FPA to hold an update meeting.

## V. Watershed Funding Update (Steve Picou)

- a. Steve Picou presented information about strategies and funding for watershed management and flood-risk reduction in Louisiana. The presentation included information about the water economy, the cost of water, and potential funding mechanisms.
- b. Discussion:
  - i. Nicolette Jones stated that part of the LWI program involves standing up a coalition as well as thinking about how it will be sustained long term. She stated that we need to think about fiscal sustainability holistically, using a variety of funds and not just a single funding source. She also stated that we should look at ways to save money through operation efficiencies and reduced maintenance costs, including the use of Nature Based Solutions.
  - ii. Tom Haysley asked the group who they foresee taking the leadership on establishing funding: local, state, or federal agencies. Blaise Pezold stated that it needs to be a joint effort. Tyler Antrup agreed and stated that user fees are an important option but due to limited local resources outside funds will be necessary.
  - iii. Chris Humphreys asked about the current status of the Louisiana infrastructure bank. Steve Picou stated that they are legislatively established but the details to make them work for watershed planning are still unknown and more research is required.
  - iv. Tom Haysley stated that RPC is working to incorporate nature based solutions into its transportation projects using federal funds and encouraging the state to do the same on state routes. RPC maintains a Brownfields program that could also incorporate nature based solutions.
  - v. Tom Haysley asked about the statewide interest in a carbon market. Steve Picou said that it is still unknown but some industry groups do support the concept. He stated that the state's Climate Initiatives Task Force and President Biden's efforts to reduce carbon emissions show some promise for a carbon market.

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## VI. Outreach Update

- a. Tom Haysley stated that RPC staff is working to update parish and city leadership on the current status of the LWI program, particularly the governance recommendations. He said staff is also working to establish relationships with local non-profit groups, and that a broader public outreach would take place later in the year.

## VII. Round 1 Project Selection Formula

- a. Tom Haysley explained the regional project selection formula
- b. Maggie Talley asked for clarification on why the formula used the inverse of the committee's priority rankings. Tom Haysley stated that the inverse would be used to ensure that final scores rank projects from highest to lowest.
- c. Vote to approve selection formula:
  - i. Moved by: Boese
  - ii. Seconded by: Pezold
  - iii. 100% in favor to approve the selection formula as presented.

## VIII. Public Comment: There were no public comments

## IX. Questions / Adjourn

- a. Vote to adjourn
  - i. Moved by: Talley
  - ii. Seconded by: Pezold
  - iii. 100% in favor to adjourn.