

LWI REGION 8 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MATERIALS October 28th, 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

October 28th, 2021 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Agenda

- I. **Regional Steering Committee Introductions**
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Approval of June 24th, 2021 Minutes** *(vote required)*
- IV. **LWI Program Updates**
 - a. Updates from the RPC
 - b. Updates & Comments from LWI state representatives
- V. **Watershed Monitoring, Mapping and Modeling Program Presentation**
- VI. **State Levee Districts Tax Amendment Discussion**
- VII. **Public Comment**
- VIII. **Questions/Adjourn** *(vote required)*

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LWI Capacity Building Grant – Region 8 Regional Steering Committee Meeting

June 24th, 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. Jessica Dandridge
 - ii. Ken Dugas
 - iii. Stephanie Bruning
 - iv. Danielle Honor
 - v. Chris Humphreys
 - vi. Albertine Kimble
 - vii. Blaise Pezold
 - viii. Maggie Talley
- b. Absent
 - i. Tyler Antrup
 - ii. Matt Falati
 - iii. Meagan Williams

III. Approval of May 27, 2021 Minutes

- a. Moved by: Blaise Pezold
- b. Seconded by: Stephanie Bruning
- c. 100% in favor to approve the May 27th, 2021 minutes.

IV. LWI Program Updates

- a. Updates from the RPC
 - i. Tom Haysley updated the Committee that the RPC coordinators have spoken to all the parish and municipal leadership in Region 8, including either directly to a Parish President or Mayor, or one of their representatives. These conversations were to get feedback on the governance recommendations and to give general updates on the LWI program. To summarize the responses, everyone was in

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favor of the process and see the value in the effort to think at a watershed-like scale moving forward.

- ii. Tom Haysley gave an update that Round 1 funding was announced on May 27th, 2021. Region 8 did not receive any funding for any project submitted, nor did the Region receive the \$5 million dollars allocated for projects to be decided amongst the Steering Committee. Many of the Committee Members were able to join a call with the LWI OCD staff on Monday, June 14th to provide feedback to the Round 1 funding process. At this meeting, and with some prior communications, LWI staff had said that the \$5M will be saved and rolled into Round 2.
- iii. Tom Haysley explained that, Round 2 policies and procedures are not yet available, but it's anticipated that there will be announcement in the coming weeks. Tom also updated that the RPC staff, along with other LWI regional coordinators, have provided a list of questions and comments to LWI staff to be considered before announcing that Round 2 is open.

Stephanie Bruning asked if there was any update on when Round 2 would open and what would the LWI OCD staff be looking for in terms of projects to do the codesign process. Nicolette Jones from LWI OCD's office explained that they are looking to our Region 8 Steering Committee to recommend projects they've identified as having the greatest benefit to Region 8.

b. Other Updates

- i. Nicolette Jones explained that Round 2 policies and procedures are still under development. She reiterated that the Regions should be focusing on prioritizing projects that would go forward for design assistance in Round 2.

V. Governance Recommendations

a. What would Region 8 Watershed Coalition Do?

- i. Tom Haysley explained that the Provisional Governance Recommendations were approved by the Steering Committee in late January. The RPC has presented these recommendations at our outreach meetings to municipal leadership. There was positive feedback to these recommendations and there have been no changes made. The Steering Committee must vote to make these recommendations final at this time.

Tom gave an overview of what was in the Governance Recommendations. The recommendations first were for what the standing Region 8 Coalitions main work would be, which included general planning, project implementation, data and modeling, and outreach and engagement. The Steering Committee did not want the Coalition to own or operate any infrastructure, like a levee district for example,

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but to be able to apply for funding and help allocate funding to the various stakeholders. The Steering Committee also did not want to be regulatory in nature. The idea would be that the Coalition could set incentives for better water management practices to receive more funding, instead of being more of a regulatory body.

- b. How would the Region 8 Coalition be structured?
 - i. Tom Haysley explained that in the recommendations the Steering Committee thought the future Coalition would be structured more as a partnership model, including government, non-profit, and community membership. The recommendation is that one entity would be the administrator of the coalition, but that entity has not been identified.
- c. What needs to be done to establish the coalition?
 - i. Tom Haysley detailed that the Governance Recommendations also made clear that in order for the Coalition to be established that the body would need legal authority from both State legislators and local jurisdictions, long term funding, and more state action to get the support for this work.
- d. Region 8 Governance Recommendations Vote
 - i. Moved by: Stephanie Bruning
 - ii. Seconded by: Blaise Pezold
 - iii. 100% in favor to approve the Region 8 Governance Recommendations

VI. Steering Committee Work Plan

- a. Marin Stephens presented an overview of the detailed draft work plan that was sent to the Steering Committee members. The purpose of the Work Plan is to move the work forward for watershed related planning from now until the full Coalitions are authorized. The Work Plan's vision is to increase the Region's resiliency to water, reduce the region's vulnerabilities, and communicate the value of watershed planning with a unified voice. The Work Plan breaks down specific tasks and deliverables into five focus areas: Governance, Funding, Outreach, Capacity, Building and Technical Assistance. Marin updated that she plans to work one on one with each steering committee member to identify if they would like to participate in any of the working groups or have recommendations for people who would like to be more engaged.

Marin Stephens explained how the Working Groups would meet and the priorities at this time. The plan is to prioritize the Outreach Working Group now until April 2022 to accomplish the necessary work that the region is facing. Internally, the RPC also saw that the Capacity Building and Technical Assistance tasks and deliverables should be

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combined into one working group going forward. These two working groups (Outreach and Technical Assistance/Capacity Building) will meet either monthly or bi-monthly. Region 8 Steering Committee meetings will then be moved to quarterly meetings. Next meeting in October 2021.

The next steps for this process would be to identify membership of the Working Groups and establish meeting group times and locations. The Working Groups will give at the quarterly Steering Committee meetings about the tasks and deliverables being worked on.

Marin Stephens also explained that going forward as part of the Capacity Building/Technical Assistance Working Group the RPC would like to establish a Water Resource Network that would meet like a technical advisory committee (TAC). The water resource network would also have guest speakers and include field trips, as previously recommended by the Steering Committee. Marin asked if there are any further questions or thoughts on the workplan to reach out to her via email at mstephens@norpc.org

b. **Feedback on the Region 8 Work Plan**

Nicolette Jones again thanked the committee for working so hard over the last year on all the LWI deliverables and approving the Governance Recommendations. She said that the Work Plan moving forward is a good direction for Region 8.

Chris Humphreys asked if this would be part of the RPC's already existing TAC. Tom and Marin explained that this would be a separate Technical Advisory Committee for the Capacity Building/Technical Assistance Working Group for LWI Region 8.

VII. Public Comment: There were no public comments.

VIII. Questions / Adjourn

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