

INFORMAL MEETING SUMMARY
Region 1
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, November 17, 2020

The Region 1 Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting was held at the Warrior Network in Bossier City, LA at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, pursuant to notice duly mailed.

Welcome/Call to Order/ Invocation/ Pledge

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matt Johns at 10:12 a.m., who welcomed the attendees, held the invocation. Vice Chairman Butch Ford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

At the Chairman's request, Ms. Robin Ramagos called the roll of members present or by proxy. Those present were: Chairman Matt Johns, Vice Chairman Butch Ford, and Ms. Zazell Dudley. Proxies held were: Mr. Tom Fontcuberta for Mr. Steve Brown, Mr. Matthew Redmon for Mr. Ali Mustapha, and Mr. John Richmond for Mr. Rick Nowlin. Others in attendance were: Mr. Ben Wicker, Mr. Austin Vaughn, Ms. Jenae Arceneaux, Mrs. Randel Elliott, Ms. Robin Ramagos, Mrs. Heidi Stewart, Mrs. Alexandra Carter, Mr. Kent Rogers, Mr. Jordan Pearson, and Mr. Jack Skaggs. A quorum was not present.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Because a quorum was not present, the adoption of the minutes from the September 25, 2020 and the October 13, 2020 meeting did not take place.

Existing Governance Entities & Roles Presentation plus Discussion Part 2

- Mr. Ben Wicker recapped the exercise one from September 2020.
- Mr. Wicker stated that the state conducted a root cause analysis where the need for regional roles, responsibilities and authorities were identified.
- Mr. Wicker explained the goal for the current meeting was to look at who would be best to manage the root causes and what entities would be the best option.
- Mr. Wicker stated in December recommendation for coalition structure will be decided on and provide action items for implementation.
- Mr. Wicker stated what was done between November 2020 and January 2021 was provisional recommendations would be provided, which was to be based on best available data, practices, expertise, and information provided within the regional steering committee.
- Mr. Wicker stated between January 2021 and April 2021 engagement would be done between parish leadership, stakeholders, and the public to gather feedback.
- Mrs. Alexandra Cater stated that the current times were challenging to get people out to talk about things and the whole process is being done in a vacuum.
- Mrs. Carter stated that as the state comes up with provisional recommendations for each region, plenty of time is given for members to go to their parish president and go over the provisional recommendations and collect information to make it a stronger recommendation.

- Mrs. Carter stated the next step would be for the members to come back in May and June to the Regional Steering Committee and explain who they met with and explain what their input was and refine the recommendations so the committee would have a collective buy in and no parish is surprised.
- Mr. Wicker asked the committee members to keep in mind that these are just provisional recommendations and very flexible at this point.
- Mr. Wicker recapped on what was done in the meeting on September 25, 2020 which was pin pointed root causes of flood risks and identified possible solutions.
- Mr. Wicker stated three key flood risk concerns were pin pointed and then the possible tools and solutions were identified for those flood risks.
- Mr. Wicker stated the first flood risk concern was, flood-controlled projects being insufficiently maintained along with a lack of funding for Operations and Maintenance (O&M).
- Mr. Wicker stated the main root causes of this first flood risk were a lack of federal grant funds for O&M and insufficient revenues to make local investments in O&M.
- Mr. Wicker stated the secondary root causes of this flood risk were some projects required significant O&M to function, a lack of public education on flood risks as well as cost of flood control systems, and a lack of public and political willingness to pass millages.
- Mr. Wicker stated some potential tools and solutions discussed were, development of passive projects or projects with lower O&M costs, increased public outreach and education on flood risk and the values of flood control projects, and increased education for decision-makers and for the public.
- Chairman Johns stated Region 5 is pitching millages for one of the solutions and a region wide millage which would be tough to pass.
- Chairman Johns stated another idea Region 5 had was fees and if every new development construction had a ten dollar fee on it because of the size of the regions it would provide a capital funding for minor maintenance projects for a match for potential federal grant funds.
- Mrs. Carter stated that the state was working on preparing long term funding solutions for the potential next three years.
- Mr. Wicker stated the second flood risk concern was drainage networks were unable to discharge due to high-water surface elevations, region was experiencing a rise in increased flooding during modest rainfall events, the region needed significant infrastructure invested to improve flood risk and improve drainage throughout the region.
- Mr. Wicker stated the main root causes of that flood risk were the water failing to drain, receiving water bodies being too high, landscape was flat, conveyance systems were holding silt or were backed up.
- Mr. Wicker stated the secondary root causes of that flood risk were homes located in places where river overflow could happen, water flowed outside of its channels, and conveyance system were unstable or receiving sediment from upstream.
- Mr. Wicker stated some potential tools and solutions discussed were development of standards and land use plans that would reduce the number of homes built in high risk areas, use of natural floodplain functions to hold and retain water in a more organized way (not in homes), coordinate with upstream states to improve channel health before it gets to Louisiana, and use natural channel design to prevent further silting and allow for natural channel meanders and retention areas.

- Mrs. Carter stated President Trump had just signed an executive order creating an advisory committee on the Watershed on the Mississippi River and the state had already started coordinating with their policy team and introducing the concerns for Region 1.
- Mr. Kent Rogers stated there was a Red River Compact in place that covered Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.
- Mr. Wicker stated the third flood risk concern was homes were being built to the standards of the current flood maps but were still flooding.
- Mr. Wicker stated the main root causes of this flood risk were flood maps were not accurate because they had not been updated in decades and they under-represented the risk.
- Mr. Wicker stated the secondary root causes of this flood risk were data and methods of FIRMS were old because landscapes had changed, and flood maps and land use plan did not account for cumulative development impact.
- Mr. Wicker stated some potential tools and solutions discussed were new data and models to be developed and use that new data and models to preserve some areas to retain water and have homes built to the new higher standards.
- Mrs. Carter stated FEMA was trying to advance their tools as well.
- Mrs. Carter stated FEMA has created a huge opportunity to the Watershed Initiative to advance their maps.
- Mrs. Carter stated that the state was working with GOSEP and FEMA on the mapping program to advance their tools.
- Mr. Wicker stated that over the last two years the LWI has really increased their partnership with FEMA and the Corps of Engineers.
- Mr. Rogers asked what level of detail the models were being developed at.
- Mrs. Carter stated that initially when the models were developed, they were not developed with a lot of detail.
- Mrs. Carter stated it was a regional model meant to evaluate the regional project impacts and inform but since then there has been more details added to the models which might mean there would not be a need to do local models.
- Mrs. Carter stated that at this point in the grant, the modelers should be working with the RSC to develop the models because they were all issued their task orders.
- Mrs. Carter stated that the LWI advised the modelers, if they can within budget, to add detail to tributaries and areas of potential projects.
- Mrs. Carter stated that from talking to and working with DOTD more and more the LWI is of the mindset that local models were most likely not needed.
- Mrs. Carter stated that it was very important for the RSC to engage with Region 1's modeling team, Atkins.
- Mr. Wicker reminded the committee that Atkins spoke at the Governance Exercise 1 presentation and introduced themselves to the group.
- Mrs. Carter stated the LWI provided Atkins with the project inventory, so if there is a project in the inventory then Atkins is planning on putting more detail in those areas.
- Mrs. Carter stated that the models are not going to be as detailed to show the difference on if a culvert it removed or added, but that later down the line, with some investment from that city or parish, that type of data could be added.

- Chairman Johns gave an example of detention models for smaller areas may not be added but if there was a need for a certain area's detention model to be added then Atkins would do that certain area.
- Mrs. Carter stated if the RSC had any ideas of where detention areas would benefit then to reach out to Atkins and let them know and have it added to the project inventory.
- Mr. Rogers asked what the contour levels were such as one foot, two foot, five-foot, ten foot, etc.
- Mrs. Carter stated that that question was out of her range of knowledge but that she would reach out and ask Atkins.
- Mrs. Carter stated part of Atkin's first task order was to propose a model design for each of the HOC 8s.
- Mrs. Heidi Stewart asked the RSC if anyone had been contacted by Atkins and no one had been.
- Mrs. Carter stated that Atkins just received their task order at the end of October 2020.
- Chairman Johns asked what the typical contour difference was for modeling.
- Mr. Rogers stated that he would prefer modeling be done in at least the urban areas.
- Chairman Johns stated DOTD was plotting the data with their own equipment.
- Mr. Rogers stated that DOTD supposedly had already flown and plotted that information.
- Mrs. Carter stated the LWI received an update on that.
- Mr. Rogers stated that once they receive the new data from DOTD, then Region 1 needed to find out how old the data was because DOTD had been saying for years that it had been done.
- Mrs. Carter stated that some of it was flown in 2019 but takes a long time to process.
- Mr. Wicker asked if there were any other questions about updated data and there were none.
- Mr. Wicker stated some examples of what "the work" would look like in Region 1 were, the region could provide project funding as well as operations and maintenance, the region could create consistency in higher standards, the region could manage project planning, where questions were asked about the O&M and how the cost for the O&M cost was budgeted, the region could develop and execute a watershed plan, or the region could provide data and support.
- Mr. Wicker stated that those items were things that needed to occur to address the flood risk in Region 1.
- Mrs. Carter stated that those items were most things LWI was hearing from all the regions across the state.
- Mrs. Carter stated that the State wanted to see a development of a watershed plan for each region at a regional level.
- Mrs. Carter stated that there was a lot of opportunities for planning with funding to back it.
- Mr. Wicker reviewed the Summary of Potential Solutions and encouraged the RSC to think about the following points:
 - A. Who would be the best in development of passive projects or projects with lower O&M costs?
 - B. Who would be best to increase public outreach and education on flood risk and the values of flood control projects?
 - C. Who would be best to increase education for decision-makers and the public?

- D. Who would be best to use new data and models that address future risk; potentially updated NFIP maps and building standards?
 - E. Who would be best to use new data and models to conduct regional planning to preserve some areas, retain water, and coordinate and prioritize O&M of river systems in the region?
 - F. Who would be best coordinated with upstream states to improve channel health before it gets to Louisiana?
 - G. Who would be best to promote or require natural channel design to prevent further silting processes and allow for natural channel meanders and retention areas?
 - H. Who would be best to work with The Corps and states upstream on behalf of the region and really work to isolate the problems?
- Mrs. Carter stated that the list of potential solutions did really reflect what Region 1 had been relying on what the flood risks were.
 - Mr. Wicker stated the LWI was going to continue to engage with the public on outreach so they would have a better understanding on what the LWI is working on.
 - Mrs. Carter stated the summary of the work helped boil down the mission of the coalition and the members needed to weigh in on it if they did not think it reflected what the coalition needed to do.
 - Mr. Wicker stated that the members needed to weigh in on it if they felt like the LWI was misrepresenting any of their comments from past meetings.
 - Chairman Johns asked if “adopting codes” should be done by the state or by the coalition?
 - Chairman Johns asked if “enforcing adopted codes” should be done by the coalition, the state, or each individual parish?
 - Mr. Rogers stated that he thought it was trying to be addressed on a regional level, then at some point down the line, there should be a political subcommittee that can enforce these.
 - Mr. Rogers stated that way that political subcommittee could grant funding and would be able to collect fees because there will be some parishes that would participate and then there would be some parishes that would not participate, if it was not done at a regional level.
 - Mr. Rogers stated that a perfect example was in 2015 and 2016 time frame Bossier Parish and Caddo Parish tried to form a coalition and tried to develop some codes and standards for developing along the Red River and Bossier Parish pretty much passed them and Caddo Parish pretty much ignored them.
 - Vice Chairman Ford stated that eventually Caddo Parish did approve and pass them.
 - Vice Chairman Ford stated it took time to get the policy makers to understand what was going on but both parishes eventually came together and passed those standards.
 - Vice Chairman Ford stated that the committee needed to reach out to Atkins and ask them what Atkin’s task order stated.
 - Mr. Rogers stated that in his opinion there was not enough interaction because the survey that Mrs. Stewart showed him the other day all depended on the data piece that the RSC members do not know a whole a lot about yet.
 - Vice Chairman Ford stated the RSC members needed to know the following pieces of information:
 - A. Where was Atkins modeling?
 - B. What was Atkins modeling?

C. What design criteria was Atkins using to study the frequency of flood events and were they directed to change?

D. What changes had been made in the design standards?

- Vice Chairman Ford stated that everything that flowed into the river The Corps had studied and the RSC members needed to make sure that Adkins had those studies.
- Vice Chairman Ford stated that the DOTD and Corps modeling were two different animals, and they did not use the same language
- Vice Chairman Ford stated FEMA's modeling developed a foot lower elevation level than the Corps' modeling developed.
- Vice Chairman Ford stated one thing that had been learned over the past 30 years was the frequency of rain events was far greater than what was used in the past.
- Vice Chairman Ford stated that back in the 1970's and 1980's there was a certain rainfall per hour event used as the 100-year rainfall event.
- Vice Chairman Ford asked if Atkins had been directed to do a climate study in Louisiana?
- Vice Chairman Ford stated that the most important question was what the purpose of the study was statewide, because when there is a climate change, the elevations rise.
- Vice Chairman Ford asked what Atkins was directed to do because that could mean the flood maps in each member's offices would not be correct.
- Vice Chairman Ford stated the way he understood this grant to be was that everything in the state was being remodeled.
- Vice Chairman Ford stated that those were the questions that Bossier Parish had because the new modeling would affect the flood maps that would then affect the development costs.
- Mrs. Carter stated that early on the issue was brought up on the existing rainfall estimate completed by NOAA.
- Mrs. Carter stated that the LWI's thought was that if we were about to invest 970 million dollars into building new structures than we better make sure the data is current because the last thing anyone wanted to happen was for a new structure to underperform.
- Mrs. Carter stated that with working with GOSEP the thought was, we could not have these new structures underperform because of most things being planned around emergency responders.
- Mrs. Carter stated that the LWI looked at the last study completed by NOAA and it was done in 2010 but it only included data pulled from rain gages up to 2007.
- Mrs. Carter stated that because so many large rainfall events happened in the last 13 years there was an argument to say that if the data were updated there would be many changes seen.
- Mrs. Carter stated that because of the several large rainfall events, Louisiana is in a position to request NOAA to update their work and if NOAA did the update now, then the information would be ready in about a year and a half, to two years.
- Mrs. Carter stated that Texas just had NOAA update theirs and their 25-year storm standard became their five-year storm standard.
- Mrs. Carter stated that this would be a good way to shift into having higher standards.
- Mr. John Richmond stated there was another part of this that affects our rural area and that was the level of inconvenience that people were willing to tolerate was creeping down.

- Mr. Richmond stated that there were many roads and bridges in the rural areas that went under water every time it rained and twenty years ago the people who lived in these areas understood that.
- Mr. Richmond stated that now during the current time, when someone would build a 400 thousand dollar home on the other side of the creek, it is intolerable that the homeowner cannot drive their low riding vehicle down a parish road and across a bridge that has eight inches of water across it for three hours.
- Mr. Richmond stated that Natchitoches Parish was spending the money to bring material in to raise roads so people can get in and out because the people of the parish's tolerance level is decreasing.
- Vice Chairman Ford stated that on the study just received on the Red River, a 100 year went from 207 CFS down to a 224 CFS in downtown Shreveport.
- Mr. Richmond agreed that the standards needed to be at a regional level because if Natchitoches Parish did not follow the same standards than it would impact the parish greatly due to the fact that so much water flows down to that parish.
- Mrs. Carter stated that most rural area homes were built to a 10-year storm standard but in more urban areas homes were built to a 25-year storm standard.
- Mrs. Carter stated that everyone had the same common goal in wanting to communicate correctly to the residents so the residents can make their own decisions on what the level of flood risk they are willing to accept.
- Mr. Richmond stated that he would rather have uniform standards done across the region as minimal standards than not.
- Chairman Johns stated that Atkins will use whatever recent study or data there was available.
- Mrs. Carter stated that the State was working with FEMA and FEMA has given their schedule on what they will be pulling this year.
- Mrs. Carter stated she spoke with Corps every other week working to expedite the delivery of the models that the Corps has directly to the consultants.
- Mr. Wicker stated that the RSC needed to figure out who had the authority to do "the work," for Region 1.
- Mr. Wicker stated that local governments and water districts had the broadest authority but were limited on the jurisdictions they had.
- Mr. Wicker stated that The Coordinating and Development Corporation covered the largest geographic area within Region 1 but had the least amount of authority.
- Mr. Carter stated that Mr. Wicker would send out the exercise questions as a poll in an email but would run through them real fast first.
- Mr. Wicker reviewed the possible suggestions that best addressed the issue with inadequate and poorly maintained flood control infrastructure.
- Mr. Wicker stated the choices could be one of the following:
 - A. Select, construct, operate and maintain flood control projects.
 - B. Serve as a conduit for grant funds to support local flood control projects.
 - C. Review major projects for regional upstream and downstream impacts.
 - D. All the above.
 - E. Other

- Mr. Wicker reviewed the possible suggestions that best addressed the issue with uncoordinated planning.
- Mr. Wicker stated the choices could be one of the following:
 - A. Develop and adopt regional watershed plans that coordinate maintenance of waterways, long term regional investments in flood control projects and encourage higher standards.
 - B. Develop, adopt, and enforce regional watershed plans that coordinate maintenance of waterways, long term regional investments in flood control projects and encourage higher standards.
 - C. Provide technical assistance to local entities to develop floodplain management plans.
 - D. Both A and C
 - E. Other
- Mr. Wicker reviewed the possible suggestions that best addressed the issue with inadequate data collection and availability.
- Mr. Wicker stated the choices could be one of the following:
 - A. Use LWI models to review flood control projects for upstream and downstream impacts.
 - B. Review and recommend higher standards for the region based on model outputs.
 - C. Serve as hub or clearinghouse for other entities to submit and use collected data and modeling.
 - D. Use LWI models to support emergency response and preparedness efforts and advise local leaders and stakeholders with flood control responsibility.
 - E. All the above
 - F. Other
- Mr. Wicker asked if there were any questions and there were none.
- Chairman Johns stated that some parishes would drag their feet if they could so if the region wanted something done more quickly than the State would have to say that these were the regulations that needed to be followed or give them the option to slowly comply by a certain deadline date.
- Mrs. Carter stated that there did need to be sensitivity on not making those parishes that would not be able to comply immediately categorized as noncompliant.
- Mr. Wicker stated the next part of the exercise was “who” could do “the work?”
- Mr. Wicker stated the main question to the RSC members was who they thought would be an authority that could coordinate the planning.
- Chairman Johns stated that it would have to be a new organization because no one had the geographic coordination.
- Mr. Rogers stated asked everyone to keep in mind the fact that of NLCOG and CDC merging and through that process there would be able to be language added to help with this authority.
- Chairman Johns stated that there would need to be a Board at the top of the food chain that would be the decision making body, then next there needed to be a technical advisory body that would feed information to The Board, and then under that would be staff that would do the day to day operations.
- Chairman Johns stated that there were two ways to do this and one was to start new and have a new entity come in or do choose the merger and have the staff of CDC and NLCOG merge into this role.

- Mr. Richmond asked Chairman Johns what the downside of using the merged CDC and NLCOG as this authority?
- Chairman Johns stated in his opinion there was not a downside for Region 1.
- Chairman Johns stated that by doing this, the RSC would be able to concentrate on the work and plan that the Region wanted done and not on the day to day operations or the administrative side of it.
- Mrs. Carter asked if the boundaries would be the current boundaries each organization covered, or would it shift to cover the watershed boundaries?
- Mr. Rogers stated that NLCOG and CDC both already dealt with so many different organizations and none of their boundaries match one another.
- Mr. Rogers stated that the parishes within the watershed boundaries were pretty much the same as the boundaries that CDC and NLCOG already cover.
- Chairman Johns stated that his organization reviewed the boundaries they cover after every census.
- Mrs. Stewart stated that Sabine Parish expressed that a very small part of their region, that was mainly woods with no residents, was in Region 1 so they wondered why they had to be included in Region 1.
- Mrs. Carter stated that this would be the right time to move the boundaries so as part of Region 1's recommendations, the RSC could reach out to Sabine Parish and ask them if they would like the boundaries moved and if Sabine Parish agreed then the boundary would be pushed up.
- Mrs. Carter stated that Sabine parish should be contacted and ask if that were something they wanted to do and if it was then the LWI would accommodate that.
- Mr. Wicker stated that one thing that needed to be looked at was the coalitions options and what would benefit it as far as using a new entity verses the existing CDC and NLCOG.
- Mr. Austin Vaughn asked what direction were the other regions leaning toward?
- Chairman Johns stated that Region 4 and Region 5 were leaning toward the direction of using an existing entity.
- Mr. Wicker asked if NLCOG and CDC had the authority to do the work needed? If not, how could it be obtained for that authority?
- Mrs. Carter stated that the entity would want to be able to coordinate with upstream and other states, would need to be able to adopt and enforce higher standards but would actively choose to do that at a different degree.
- Mrs. Carter stated that with the new potential legislation, what the regions are more than likely going to have to do is compile a list of what all the regions want to do.
- Mrs. Carter stated that your new group may not need to do all the tasks on the list but would be able to pick and choose what tasks are appropriate and that would ultimately manifest into your mission.
- Mr. Wicker asked do we think the entity would have the capability and capacity to do the work? If not, how can it gain the capability and capacity?
- Chairman Johns stated that a new entity did not exist so it would not have any capability to do the work.
- Chairman Johns stated that CDC and NLCOG is about 50% toward the capability to do the work needed because no one had the ability to do modeling work in house.

- Mr. Wicker asked what would need to be done to get to 100% capability?
- Mr. Vaughn stated that in his opinion it would depend on funding.
- Mrs. Carter stated that through the Regional Capacity Building Grant there had been allocated dollars to support a coalition for the first couple of years.
- Mrs. Carter stated that knowing that the grant is a twelve-year grant, and we want these coalitions to stand on their own, there are a couple of other options to help support for long term funding.
- Mrs. Carter stated such options could include a statewide assessment for flooding activities or a regional assessment for flooding activities.
- Mrs. Carter stated we have to be in a position to seize those goals and know that this is how long the watershed funding will last and where the coalition would need to be to be sufficient and sustainable on their own.
- Mrs. Carter stated the LWI would be working with the RSCs and coalitions to push the initiatives forward to know that it would be successful in the long term.
- Mrs. Carter stated that if a local modeling aspect was pursued, then there was a whole other set of funds set aside that could be obtained.
- Mrs. Carter stated there was also a whole other set of funds set aside for capacity building and helping locals learn how to use the models, making sure that the tools that were developed for the models worked for the locals and helped answer any questions locals may need answered.
- Mrs. Carter stated the program was expected to hit the ground running once the studies and surveys were finished.
- Mrs. Carter stated those studies and recommendations should be finished in January 2021.
- Mr. Rogers stated that is another reason why the RSC would need to know what details are in the models.
- Mrs. Carter stated that maybe the modeling consultants should present their modeling approach to the members of the RSC before they presented them to the State.
- Mrs. Carter stated that she would talk to DOTD and Atkins about that process.
- Vice Chairman Ford stated that FEMA requires that a project look at how it would affect other parishes before moving forward with the project and now trying to do it on a state level with DOTD involved would be a very complicated process.
- Vice Chairman Ford asked Mr. Matthew Redman if he would be able to do that process.
- Mr. Redman stated that he did not have the capabilities to do that
- Mr. Redman stated that the level of results that would be obtained from the regional model will not reflect any local flooding issues
- Vice Chairman Ford stated that his point was that DOTD had a hydraulic expert and they were planning on getting involved some how.
- Mrs. Carter stated that it is very open ended and DOTD does not have an idea on what they are going to do with the models.
- Mrs. Carter stated that was a good thing because it left it opened for the LWI to direct them to where there was a need for them.
- Mrs. Carter stated if there were any parishes that want to update their FEMA map, they will be able to do so.

- Mrs. Carter stated that there are many different applications and that it had been a labor to go through the projects.
- Mrs. Carter stated that DOTD was just managing the contract.
- Vice President Ford stated that DOTD did as much work in the area as others.
- Vice President Ford stated that DOTD needed to sign off on all of this also because they are building roads and bridges all the time as well.
- Mr. Rogers stated somewhere down the line, the true goal of all that work should be a truly comprehensive plan.
- Mr. Redman stated that that goal was going to be the biggest challenge, and that the modeling will help develop the regional watershed plan.
- Mrs. Carter stated that what the State does not want to happen is for everyone to update their flood maps all at once.
- Mrs. Carter stated that it would be best to plan it out and communicate accurately so there is a big regional model that is successful.
- Mrs. Carter stated that luckily this is a twelve-year grant so there is plenty of time to get a good plan and make sure everything is working successfully.
- Mr. Wicker asked if there were any risks that need to be brought to our attention on the hybrid model that he should be looking into over the next several weeks?
- Mr. Rogers stated there was a difference between regional level and local level and that was that smaller items and issues should be looked over on a local level.
- Chairman Johns stated if the coalition was a new organization then you are at an immediate disadvantage when applying for grant funds.
- Mr. Richmond asked if the new coalition could be two or three groups operating under a CEA?
- Mr. Rogers stated that option sounded like actions that had been done in Bossier Parish before.
- Mr. Richmond stated that the new coalition could easily do that, and one group take the lead on and use their resume', but it would be more transparent.
- Mrs. Carter stated the only thing that I would warn is CEAs have a term.
- Mrs. Carter stated one of the main things the LWI wanted to do is create a sustainable institution.
- Mr. Richmond stated that that could be part of the CEA.
- Mr. Richmond stated that the group could have a twelve-year CEA that transitioned because it was a legal contract.
- Mrs. Carter stated that this would be added to the email as well to collect everyone's feedback and thoughts.
- Mr. Wicker stated Thursday, November 19, 2020 was the Louisiana Council on Watershed meeting.
- Mr. Wicker stated there would be a meeting in December 2020 where the State would be going over the "How's," with all the Regional Watershed Coordinators.
- Mr. Wicker stated that after the December meeting the LWI would start preparing the provisional recommendations for the coalition structures.
- Mrs. Carter stated that she did not want the members thinking that the State was preparing their recommendations because that was not what was happening.


- Mrs. Carter stated that the State was going to try and create a template to help the regions create their own recommendations.
- Mrs. Carter stated that Mr. Wicker would send out the survey link along with a 3rd or 4th question about the entities.
- Chairman Johns asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Adjourn

Chairman Johns asked if there was any further business to come before the Board, and with there being none, the November 17, 2020 meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, Secretary to the Corporation, certifies that the above and foregoing are the true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Members of the Region 1 Regional Steering Committee held on November 17, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.



Jack "Bump" Skaggs, Secretary